

Broad Street Combined Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinic

CITY OF



COVENTRY

THE HEALTH SERVICES OF COVENTRY IN 1955



BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T. MORRISON CLAYTON

M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

As at 31st December, 1955.

Chairman—Councillor Mr. W. A. BINKS.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor Mr. R. LOOSLEY.

The Lord Mayor (Alderman Mr. T. H. DEWIS).

The Deputy-Mayor (Alderman Mr. W. I. THOMPSON).

Alderman Mr. J. LATHAM.

Councillor Mrs. E. A. ALLEN.

Councillor Mr. K. BENFIELD.

Councillor Mr. W. CALLOW.

Councillor Mrs. E. JONES.

Councillor Mr. T. LOCKSLEY.

Councillor Mr. R. NICKSON.

Councillor Mr. C. D. SWAIN.

Dr. J. BALLANTINE (nominated by the Coventry Branch of the British Medical Association).

Mr. H. C. HANNAM-CLARK (nominated by the No. 20 Group : Hospital Management Committee).

Dr. N. J. L. ROLLASON (nominated by the Local Executive Council).

PENSIONERS COMMITTEE

As at 31st December, 1955.

Chairman—Councillor Mr. C. WARD.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor Mr. A. D. SMITH.

The Lord Mayor (Alderman Mr. T. H. DEWIS).

The Deputy-Mayor (Alderman Mr. W. I. THOMPSON).

Councillor Mrs. M. E. STONEMAN.

Councillor Mr. H. STANLEY.

Councillor Mr. E. A. HULL. •

Councillor Mr. G. D. MANN.

Co-opted Members:—

Mrs. H. ASHBY.

Mrs. E. M. GARDNER.

Mrs. M. JEFFS.

Mr. F. T. HABESHAW.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, Principal School Medical Officer,
Medical Adviser to the Pensioners Committee and to the
Children's Committee :

T. M. Clayton, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

J. Ardley, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (appointed 19.9.55).

R. J. Dodds (resigned 2.10.55).

Senior Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare :

Janet Margaret Done, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G.

Assistant Medical Officers :

Christine Glynn, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Catherine T. Howat, M.B., Ch.B.

Vivien Phillips Helme, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.

Christine J. T. Jamieson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Analyst : F. G. D. Chalmers, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C.

Veterinary Officer : W. Dale, M.R.C.V.S.

Sanitary Inspectorate.

Chief Sanitary Inspector	R. Williams, O.B.E., D.P.A., F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.
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Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector		E. A. Johnson.
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Divisional Inspectors	T. E. Willmott. D. C. Norcliffe.
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Meat Inspectors	L. Vivian (Senior), R. Sutton. W. Bowen-Davies,
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Senior Food and Drugs Inspector		H. Ellis.
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Food and Drugs Inspectors	H. Lenton, D. H. Evans, B. McCutcheon.
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Housing and Canal Boats Inspector	R. D. Hayne.
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District and Sanitary Inspectors : J. E. Saunders, G. L.
Morris, G. E. Brown, R. W. Baldrey, P. J. Wightman,
L. D. Cowell.

Student Sanitary Inspectors	A. Harrison, J. Lowe, D. Wilson.
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Rodent Officer	W. J. Brown.
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Health Visitors:—

Superintendent Miss D. M. Lloyd.

Deputy Superintendent
(M. & C.W.) Miss K. L. Houlton.

Deputy Superintendent
(School Health) Mrs. B. E. Mackie.

Health Visitors : Misses A. Docherty, S. T. Deane, E. Fraser,
E. C. Harmsworth, E. M. Hindman, D. Jones, J. E.
Lusty, A. F. McKenzie, M. Phillpotts, E. M. Stidworthy,
B. N. Thomas, Mrs. E. Dickenson, M. K. Donnicliffe,
G. Foulsham, B. Grainger, M. E. Harris, N. Lever,
M. Lewis, L. Picken, J. M. Pye, E. P. P. Talbot,
P. O. Wilson.

Part-time Health Visitor Miss M. Ratcliffe.

Tuberculosis Visitors : Mrs. C. L. Harper, K. Peters, E.
Wolverson, Misses. M. Meer, D. Phipps.

School Health Nurses :* Mrs. A. O. Campbell, E. Ellis,
C. Hammond, S. Player, S. R. Shropshire, T. D. Simms,
M. Thomas, L. Wardle, O. A. White, M. Williams.

*(Have Ministry of Health temporary dispensation to undertake
certain health visiting duties.)

School Health Nurses Mrs. E. Gore.

(with Health Visitors Certificates) Mrs. M. George.

School Health Nurses Miss M. Absolom.

(with special duties) Mrs. E. Hale.

Temporary School Nurses ... Mrs. L. Devlin.

Mrs. I. M. Campbell.

Mrs. E. M. Horton.

Municipal Midwives :

Non-Medical Supervisor Miss M. A. E. Taylor.

Deputy Supervisor Mrs. Woodley.

Midwives : Miss D. G. Abell, Mrs. I. Argyle, Mrs. N.
Beagrie, Miss V. Bate; Mrs. M. Brivkalns, Mrs. J. Brett,
Miss D. Brown, Mrs. E. Caskie, Miss J. Cornwaite,
Mrs. D. M. Cox, Mrs. M. Diaper, Mrs. J. Duckett,
Mrs. F. Fardon, Miss D. C. Greaves, Mrs. E. Harris,
Miss D. Heritage, Mrs. W. Kinsey, Mrs. E. McDowell,
Mrs. B. Fell, Miss P. Norton, Mrs. S. O'Donnell, Miss
E. Raine, Mrs. E. Reddick, Mrs. D. Reeves, Mrs. M.
Rouse, Miss J. Pickett, Miss W. S. Sparkes, Mrs. A.
Spragg, Mrs. E. Stevens, Miss D. G. Taylor, Mrs. I.
Trasler, Miss A. Ward, Mrs. E. Wright, Miss D. L.
Taylor, Mrs. E. Morley, Mrs. M. Sheehan.

Day Nurseries :

Supervisor Mrs. M. E. Williams.

Nursery Matrons : Miss M. Allan, Mrs. H. A. Arnatt, Miss
K. G. Blackmore, Mrs. B. Bruton, Mrs. E. M. Butcher,
Mrs. G. Crichton, Miss D. M. Griffiths, Mrs. I. P.
Gerard, Mrs. E. T. Young.

Nursery Staffs Nurses—87. Others—36.

Home Nursing Service:

Superintendent	...	...	...	Miss H. B. Auckland.
Assistant Superintendents	...			Miss M. C. Lynch. Miss V. G. Chadwell.
Nurses. Full-time	49	(includes 3 male).	Part-time	10.

Home Helps Service:

Organiser	...	...	...	Mrs. E. Marshall.
Assistants	...	...	...	Mrs. M. Ball. Mrs. D. Buggins, Mrs. J. Radford.
Home Helps.	160	(including part-time workers).		

Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives:

Superintendent	...	...	...	Mr. S. Vince.
Temporary Assistant Superintendent	...	...	...	Miss M. L. Lloyd.
Assistants	...	...	...	Miss M. G. Bowen, Mrs. I. D. Maxwell, Mrs. M. T. Darnell, Mrs. I. Cotterill.

Ambulance Service:

Superintendent	...	...	...	F. Warwick.
Deputy Superintendent	...	...		E. Taylor.
Control Sub-Officer	...	...		H. Petherham.
Ambulance Personnel	Males—61. Females—10.	
Telephonist—1.				

Blind Welfare:

Home Teachers	Miss E. Fox. Mrs. M. Gould.
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Administrative and Clerical Staff:

(General Public Health).

Principal Administrative Assistant and Senior Authorised Officer		J. H. Grant.
Deputy	...	F. Ellis.

Senior Sectional Officer:

Statistical and General	...	T. Lord.
Authorised Officers:	J. A. Sturdy, Miss F. Holly, Mrs. G. Preston.	
Senior Clerks:	G. Hubbard, H. Jewison, Miss M. E. Goddard, Miss B. M. Sanders.	
M.O.H.'s Personal Secretary	...	Miss J. Grant.

Clerks:

Messrs. F. Green, J. P. Higgins,* J. B. Hopkins, P. Morrell, F. H. Pearson, P. E. Smith, W. Wakelin, S. Wardle, K. Williamson*.

Misses. E. Baker, E. Brown, P. E. Brown, J. Baker, D. Bell, J. M. Gaze, M. M. Hands, R. Heynes, V. Jevons, M. J. Keech, V. H. Knight, M. Lancaster, J. L. McGregor, F. McNab, C. M. Reed, G. Roddy, B. L. Smith, C. M. Taylor, P. Williams, V. C. Whittaker, L. A. Wheatley.

Mrs. S. Davies, A. Harrison, R. Loundes, M. L. McGaig, M. Warren.

Storekeeper:

Central Stores Pinley J. C. Brown.

Welfare and Pensioners Services:

- I. Aged Persons' Homes (Pensioners Committee).
 - II. Other Welfare Provisions (Health Committee).
- | | |
|---|--|
| Pensioners Officer | J. H. Ryner, F.C.C.S.,
F.I.S.W. |
| Deputy Pensioners Officer | R. N. Nicol, D.P.A.,
A.I.S.W. |
| Senior Assistant | F. M. Riley. |
| Welfare Officer (for handicapped
persons) | T. D. Holloway. |
| Assistant Welfare Officers | Mrs. G. G. Downes,
R. J. Pickering,
M. S. O. Thomas. |
| Senior Clerk | Miss M. Pugh. |
| Clerk | Mrs. K. Hulse. |

Old People's Homes:

Moat House	Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Watson, Superintendent and Matron.
Charterhouse	Mr. and Mrs. F. Fallon, Superintendent and Matron.
Newlands House	Mr. and Mrs. G. Eaton, Superintendent and Matron.
Woodway Grange	Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Boston, Superintendent and Matron.
Stone House	Miss O. Hughes, Matron.
St. Paul's	Miss A. Stanley, Matron.
Hawthorn Lodge	Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Webster, Superintendent and Matron.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	19,167
Population (Census, 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	258,211
Population (estimate for mid year 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	267,300
Density of population (1951) (per acre)	...	...	...	...	...	13.4
Density of population (estimate mid 1955) (per acre)	...	...	...	...	...	13.9
Number of inhabited dwellings (1931)	42,190	(Dec., 1955)	79,360	...	...
Average number of persons to each occupied house (mid year)	3.37	...	...	...	...
Rateable value of City (Dec., 1955)	...	...	...	£2,214,523	...	
Sum represented by a penny rate (Dec., 1955)	£8,752	...	

Males. Females. Totals.

Live Births—

(Legitimate)	2,037	2,024	4,061
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(Illegitimate)	134	105	239
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2,171	2,129	4,300 = Birth rate of 16.09 per 1,000 population.
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Stillbirths	57	51	108 = Rate of 25.1 per 1,000 live births.
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Deaths	1,293	1,031	2,324 = Death rate of 8.7 per 1,000 population.
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Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	5 = 1.16 per 1,000 births.
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Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	27.9
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(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	26.1
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(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	58.6
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Marriage rate	16.2
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*Death rate from Principal Infectious Diseases	0.026
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Respiratory Death Rate	1.0
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Phthisis	0.16
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Death Rate from other forms of Tuberculosis	0.015
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Death Rate from Cancer	1.6
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Comparability factor (Births)	0.95
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Birth Rate as adjusted by factor	15.2
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Comparability Factor (Deaths)	1.27
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Death Rate as adjusted by factor	11.0
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*Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Measles, Diarrhoea, under 2 years, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Poliomyelitis.

My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report relating to the health of the City's population and the work of the Health Department for the year 1955.

The City's population has again expanded from 264,600 in mid-1954 to 267,300 in mid-1955, making an increase of nearly 45,000 in Coventry's population since the end of the last war. The density of population has increased by 0.1 per acre.

The crude death rate for Coventry in 1955 was 8.7 per 1,000, as compared with 8.2 per 1,000 in 1954 (the lowest for this City), and 11.7 per 1,000 for England and Wales. The major causes of death in this city continue to be from heart conditions and vascular lesions of the nervous system, cancer and respiratory diseases.

The infantile mortality rate for the year was 27.9 per 1,000 births (a new low record) as compared with 30.4 per 1,000 (the previous lowest) in 1954 and 24.9 per 1,000 for England and Wales. Deaths occurring in the first month of life were 17.9 compared with 21.5 per 1,000 in 1954, and this represents a considerable and welcome decline.

The local birth rate was 16.09 per 1,000 population (4,300 births) as compared with 15.76 in 1954.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis were 445 in 1955 as compared with 433 in 1954, and there were 42 deaths from this cause in 1955 (1954: 41). Dr. Gordon Evans comments that there were less than half the number of people x-rayed in Coventry during 1955 (17,000) as compared with 1954 (35,244) but the Unit was seemingly only operating in Coventry for three months of the year. Details of Dr. Gordon Evan's report are contained on page 17.

The total number of infectious diseases notified in 1955 was 6,005 as compared with 3,670 in 1954, and this considerable increase was due mostly to measles (3,947 in 1955 against 2,083 in 1954); whooping cough (755 in 1955 against 499 in 1954); dysentery (147 in 1955 compared with 67 in 1954) and this shows a disturbing trend, particularly as they are concerned with young children, *i.e.*, 107 occurring in children under 15 years of age and the disease is capable of creating considerable nuisance value in schools.

With regard to notification of poliomyelitis there were 27 in 1955 (4 in 1954) of which 10 were paralytic. Diphtheria gave rise to six notifications (all of which were unimmunised) and unfortunately one of these died. I would particularly refer readers of my report to my comments on page 32 which deal with the fundamental importance of diphtheria immunisation and the necessity for overcoming the slightest degree of complacency towards this disease.

There were 156 notifications of food poisoning as compared with 129 in 1954. This number must obviously be very much

less than the actual number occurring in the City because, generally speaking, most notifications are received in the department from a relatively small group of general practitioners.

The process of amalgamating the maternity and child welfare and school health medical and nursing services continued most satisfactorily throughout the year and indeed, from September, the service was completely integrated throughout the 9 areas envisaged for this arrangement in the City.

Furthermore all nursing staff (with three exceptions) coming within the scheme of amalgamation are now accommodated within the new council building for that portion of their time necessary to office and administrative purposes. The three exceptions are a clinic nurse and a dental nurse, both at Gulson Road Clinic, whilst the third nurse divides her time between the requirements needed at Baginton Fields and Alice Stevens Special Schools respectively.

It was with much satisfaction that the Health Committee saw their new Broad Street Maternity and Child Welfare and School Health Clinic opened. The clinic is situated on the corner site partly bounded by Stoney Stanton Road and Broad Street, and the opening ceremony was performed by His Worship the Lord Mayor (Alderman T. H. Dewis). The facilities of this modern building, erected by Messrs. J. C. Gray, Ltd., to the design of the City Architect, have for long been needed in this populous area, and should prove a major asset to mothers and children: indeed they will be most helpful to appropriate departmental staff who are working in the Foleshill area.

The other clinic being built in the newly developed Tile Hill area is now at an advanced stage and it will most certainly be available to the department by about mid-1956.

There are indications of a greater measure of understanding between general practitioners and the local authority concerning the addition of general practitioner accommodation to the Tile Hill Centre: it is hoped events will shortly lead to such an extension of facilities in this newly developed locality.

I am now pleased to report the opening of a maternity and child welfare clinic at the St. Barbara's Church Hall, Earlsdon. There have been good attendances at the weekly sessions and the arrangement meets a need which has been apparent for some time.

Clinics are also in mind for other newly-developing areas (*e.g.*, Willenhall) and I shall be reporting upon any developments in this connection in future annual reports.

With regard to the "priority" dental services—there have been no new appointments to our municipal dental staff during the year, so that regretfully, I cannot point to any improvement in the situation reported upon in recent years. I can however say that I have received the utmost co-operation from Mr. Leaver, Clerk to the Local Executive Council, in trying (sometimes quite successfully) to resolve urgent dental problems relating to school children.

It is of interest to note that the Mobile Meals Service, which continues its good work in the City for the sick, aged and infirm, has provided some 154,000 meals since its inception 6½ years ago.

The excellent work of the Home Nursing Service remains at a high level, there being an increase of 200 new cases over those dealt with in the previous year. The scheme of training operating locally in conjunction with the Birmingham Authority for the Queen's Certificate has been of the greatest assistance to us in maintaining a full complement of nursing staff. I have commented further upon this service on page 30 of the Report.

Two divisional administrative offices for the Home Helps Service were created in the Bell Green and Holbrooks areas of the City during 1955, and this decentralisation has been achieved without additional expense to the Local Authority. It has also proved much more convenient to the home helps who, generally speaking, are drawn from the districts mentioned above. I would wish to congratulate the Organiser of Home Helps and her staff upon their commendable efforts during a year of interest though of considerable difficulty at times.

The free allocation of milk to tuberculous patients by the Local Authority continues to increase year by year, but it should be appreciated that this provision is a necessity which must continue in the health interests of the patients concerned.

The low record figure for infantile mortality in this city during 1955 is noted with much satisfaction. While nowadays we are conscious that modern antibiotic treatments exert a favourable influence upon illness and the saving of life, yet it is also appropriate I think to claim some measure of success in this record achievement for the local authority's progressive policy in maternity and child welfare provisions of recent years.

The important work of the Sanitary Inspectorate is performed under much difficulty due to the great shortage of district inspectors; this at a time when great attention is focussed upon slum clearance and housing problems. Moreover the dearth of inspectorial staff has unfortunately had the effect of delaying any extension of the City's central smokeless zone, which it will be recalled was created in February, 1951.

The transference of the Health Department from the Council House (in which they had been since its opening in 1917) to the new office accommodation on the south side of Earl Street was accomplished in August, 1955. The new quarters have had the effect of bringing together various outstationed sections of the department, *i.e.*, Sanitary Inspectorate, Home Helps, Welfare, and Municipal Midwifery Services. Moreover the School Health Service (previously situated in Cope Street) is now installed within a portion of the Health Department's accommodation, and this has obviously led to improved contacts and better administration. I take this opportunity of welcoming the School Health Service into the Health Department.

In view of this very desirable centralisation it has been possible to arrange a re-organisation of common departmental services, *e.g.*, typing, accounts, ordering, postage, etc. Generally

speaking the department is now functioning with much greater facility due to unification under one roof and because of the relief from overcrowding which was with us in the old offices.

National Assistance Act.

The opening of Hawthorn Lodge in March, 1953, was rightly an event of which the Pensioners Committee could be justly proud, and it is pleasing to note that a further such Home is now in an advanced stage of construction at Bell Green. This latter building will accommodate some 42 residents exclusive of staff, but in addition the bedroom accommodation has been so arranged as to cater for a greater proportion of old people on the ground floor than is the arrangement at Hawthorn Lodge: this will be generally advantageous.

It gives also much cause for satisfaction that the Ministry of Health has consented to the Council preceding with the schemes for similar Homes in the Willenhall and Stoke Aldermoor areas, and this in time will obviously have a beneficial effect upon the sizeable waiting list.

There is need during any one year for an effective liaison to exist between the hospitals and ourselves, thereby ensuring that sick old people in our Homes have ready admission and effective treatment. I am happy to say that such a harmonious arrangement does exist in Coventry, and we are particularly grateful to Dr. Stuart Smith for his most helpful co-operation.

Further details concerning the administration of the Old People's Homes are set on pages 76 and 82.

The Health Committee have had under constant review the need for providing a Home for Handicapped Persons. It is likely after a further assessment of departmental surveys of handicapped persons in the City have been completed that an appropriate decision will be taken. Continuous progress has been made in relation to these surveys and the appointment of an additional Assistant Welfare Officer during the year did much to further this work.

Concerning the Superannuation Regulations, I have to report a still further increase in the number of medical examinations undertaken by my staff. Whereas in 1953 and 1954 there were 970 and 1181 examinations respectively, in 1955 this figure was at 1285.

During the year my Deputy, Dr. R. J. Dodds, was appointed as Medical Officer of Health, Principal School Medical Officer and Chief Welfare Officer to the County Borough of Smethwick, and in congratulating him upon this achievement I also take the opportunity of recording my appreciation of his efficient service and assistance during the five years he was in my department.

A great deal has been written and said during this last few years concerning the dangers inherent in smoking—particularly from persistent inhalation by cigarette smokers. I am frequently asked as Medical Officer of Health what are my views in this obviously contentious matter. It seems clear to me from the

considerable statistical and scientific evidence now available that it would be wise for parents, as far as lies tactfully within their power, to dissuade the younger generations from falling into this habit. We are all aware of those individuals (and they are many) who say "why worry, it may never happen to me." They may, of course, be quite right, but there is seemingly conclusive evidence, particularly in the case of heavy cigarette smokers, that the frequency of lung cancer is far in advance of that occurring in non-smokers; this is surely worthy of serious consideration.

It is with much regret that I have to record the deaths of two members of the Health Committee, namely Alderman Miss A. Arnold and Councillor Mrs. A. Osborn. The former, who died in November, 1955, was Chairman of the Health Committee during the period 1932-34 and was also the first Lady Mayor of this City, holding that office in 1937; she gave continuous service upon the Health Committee throughout her municipal career.

Mrs. Osborn, who at the time of her death in July, 1955, was Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee, was originally co-opted from the Education Committee but later became a directly nominated and most active member of the former Committee.

It is becoming a commonplace for me to comment year by year upon the expansion of the Health and Welfare services for the benefit of Coventry's citizens. The year 1955 has proved to be no exception to the rule. The number of new cases dealt with and visits made have increased considerably in most fields of the Health Department's work and I am most happy to congratulate and express my appreciation to all members of my staff for their admirable application throughout the year, no matter in what sphere of work they have been engaged.

I am also pleased to record my thanks for the ready co-operation of other municipal colleagues and their staffs as the need has arisen. It is appropriate also to note the helpful assistance always so readily available from the senior architectural staff in connection with a number of particular departmental projects affecting my department. I am also grateful to municipal colleagues for items of information included in this report.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Health and Pensioners Committees respectively I tender thanks on behalf of my staff and myself for their helpfulness and consideration in a variety of matters affecting the affairs of the department during the year.

I am, my Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours obedient Servant,

The. Clayton.

Health Department,
Coventry.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimated population for mid-1955 was 267,300 which was an increase from the 1954 mid-year figure of 264,600. The generally upward trend of the city's population for the past twenty years is shown in the table of vital statistics on page .

Birth Rate.

The births registered as Coventry births during the year numbered 4,300 giving a birth rate of 16.09 per 1,000 population. These figures compare with 4,171 births in 1954 and a birth rate of 15.76 for the same year. Further details relating to births occurring within the city are given elsewhere under the heading of "Midwifery".

The comparable figures for the country generally and the great towns are as follows:—

England and Wales ...	...	15.0	per 1,000 population
Great Towns ...	...	16.07	„ „ „

General Death Rate.

The number of deaths recorded as belonging to the city during the year was 2,324, which gives a crude death rate of 8.7 per 1,000 population. This compares with a death rate for England and Wales of 11.7, and with a similar rate for the great towns of 11.44. The major causes of death during the year under review continue to be heart disease and other vascular conditions; cancer; respiratory conditions and tuberculosis. An analysis of the various causes of death is given in the appropriate table on page 139. It may be noted that 60.5 per cent of the total deaths registered occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age during 1955 was 120, giving an infant mortality rate of 27.9 per 1,000 births.

Infantile Mortality for England and Wales	24.9	per 1,000 births
Infantile Mortality for Great Towns	26.77	„ „ „

Neo-Natal Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age during 1955 was 77, giving a mortality rate of 17.9 per 1,000 births. The comparable neo-natal mortality rate for 1954 was 22.0 per 1,000 births.

Marriage Rate.

The number of marriages solemnised in the city during the year was 2,166 giving a marriage rate (*i.e.*, number of persons married) of 16.2 per 1,000 population. (This compares with 16.0 per 1,000 population for the preceding year.)

Maternal Mortality.

The maternal mortality rate for the city was 1.16 per 1,000 births and this compares with 1.2 for the preceding year. The comparative figure for England and Wales was 0.64.

Infectious Diseases.

The following notifications in respect of infectious diseases were received in the department during 1955:—

Diphtheria 6 (0 : 212); scarlet fever 295 (212 : 406); measles 3,947 (2,083); whooping cough 755 (499); acute primary pneumonia 102 (139 : 290); puerperal pyrexia 12 (6 : 54); meningitis 6 (9 : 36); acute anterior poliomyelitis (paralytic) 10 (1 : 2); acute anterior poliomyelitis (non-paralytic) 17 (3 : —); ophthalmia neonatorum 0 (1 : 16); erysipelas 36 (36 : 60); malaria 1 (7 : —); Dysentery 147 (67 : 15); acute influenzal pneumonia 33 (23 : 56); acute encephalitis 1 (4 : —); food poisoning 156 (129 : —); paratyphoid fever 6 (2 : —).

The comparative figures in brackets are those for 1954 and for the last complete pre-war year 1938 in that order. In the last mentioned year measles and whooping cough were not notifiable.

The total incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was more than that during 1954 (*i.e.*, 6,005 : 3,670).

Concerning diphtheria, the following figures continue to tell their story and, incidentally, that concerned with the campaign of immunisation against diphtheria in Coventry:—

- 1945—146 cases (5 deaths—none immunised).
- 1946—115 cases (4 deaths—none immunised).
- 1947—53 cases (2 deaths—none immunised).
- 1948—12 cases (no deaths).
- 1949—12 cases (2 deaths—none immunised).
- 1950—7 cases (2 deaths—none immunised).
- 1951—4 cases (no deaths).
- 1952—2 cases (no deaths).
- 1953—0 cases (no deaths).
- 1954—0 cases (no deaths).
- 1955—6 cases (1 death)—none of the six immunised.

The figures relating to scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough, and poliomyelitis show an increase and acute primary pneumonia a decrease for the year.

Incidence of Poliomyelitis in the City during 1955.

1953 was the year of greatest incidence for this disease in Coventry when 164 cases were confirmed. In 1954 there were 4 cases but there has been an increase to 27 cases in 1955.

Scabies.

The scabies and cleansing unit continued to function at the Central Welfare Centre; this is open daily for women and children from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and for men four evenings per week.

The work of the unit was as follows :—

	No. of patients	No. of treatments
Scabies		
Male adults	8	16
Females Adults	13	26
School Children	27	54
Children under 5 years	4	8
Total	52	104

Cleansing.

Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year, 445 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 36 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified or re-notified in the city (1954—433 and 42).

Coventry patients are now sent to other hospitals and sanatoria in addition to Hertford Hill and this has resulted in a marked reduction in the waiting list. The regular visitation by a near relative of individual patients in these distant sanatoria is assisted by the department and this service has received numerous appreciative letters.

For further details of tuberculosis, note comments under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, page 52.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF MASS RADIOGRAPHY IN COVENTRY

Year ended 31st December, 1955.

Dr. A. Gordon Evans has kindly supplied the following information :—

“The number of Coventry residents x-rayed during the year was 17,100. This is considerably less than for 1954 (36,240). The Unit was, however, working in Coventry for only three months (January to March); during the other nine months it was working in the County area. Of the total number x-rayed, 117 (0.68%), tuberculous conditions and 50 (0.29%) non-tuberculous conditions were referred to the Chest Clinic or Hospital for further investigation. 58 (0.34%) of the tuberculous cases have since been notified.

During 1955 a new statistical procedure was introduced into Mass Radiography. A 10% sample of all record cards are now sent to the Registrar General for analysis. The figure of 17,100 Coventry residents x-rayed has therefore been obtained from the General Register Office. The other details are obtained from our own records and information supplied by the Coventry Chest Clinic.

The following table shows the break-down of the total number x-rayed and gives details of the tuberculous and non-tuberculous conditions referred for further investigation, and, of the tuberculous cases, the number notified up to the 30th June, 1956.

GROUP	Number X-rayed	Tuberculous cases referred to Chest Clinic				Non-tuberculous cases referred to Chest Clinic or Hospital	
		Number referred	% of total X-rayed	Number notified (new cases)	% of total X-rayed	Number referred	% of total X-rayed
1. Organised Surveys (Industry, Shops and Offices. Civil Servants and Local Government) ...	12,130	84	0.69	38	0.31	26	0.21
2. School children ...	3,930	16	0.41	12	0.31	14	0.36
3. Doctors' patients ...	540	12	2.22	6	1.11	10	1.85
4. Ante-natal patients	500	5	1.00	2	0.40	—	—
Totals	17,100	117	0.68	58	0.34	50	0.29

Group 1.—(Organised Surveys.) There has been a slight fall in the percentage of Notified Cases (1954—0.37%).

Group 2.—(School Children.) Here it is interesting to note that there is practically no change in the percentage of Notified Cases (1954—0.32%). It will be seen from the table that incidence in the school children during 1955 is the same as that of the Organised Groups.

Group 3.—(Doctors' Patients.) This Group is not normally covered by Mass Radiography, the Doctors' Patients being x-rayed on 4" × 5" film at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. When, however, the Hospital service was over-burdened, the Unit was taken to the Coventry and Warwickshire to clear up the back-log. This group is the result of that one visit and, as is to be expected, shows a very high incidence of tuberculosis.

Group 4.—(Ante-Natal Patients.) Although only two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were discovered in this Group, it is sufficient to show the importance of this routine x-ray."

VENEREAL DISEASES

Statistics of new cases seen at the clinic during 1955 show a slight increase on those for 1954 (*i.e.*, 708 : 699). It will be recalled that the peak year of 1946 gave a figure of 1,470. It is also of interest to record that of the 708 new cases seen, no less than 552 were later proved to be non-venereal.

Further commentary is given on page 53 under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

In the following pages I have dealt with the services which come within the terms of the National Health Service Act, in the following order :—

- Section 21. Health Centres.
 „ 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
 „ 23. Midwifery.
 „ 24. Health Visitors.
 „ 25. Home Nursing.
 „ 26. Vaccination and Immunisation.
 „ 27. Ambulance Service.
 „ 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.
 „ 29. Domestic Help.
 „ 31. Mental Health.

Health Centres

Section 21

In accordance with Section 21 of the National Health Service Act, it shall be the duty of every Local Health Authority to provide and maintain to the satisfaction of the Minister premises which shall be available for all or any of the following purposes :—

- (a) For the provision of general medical services, under Part IV of this Act by medical practitioners.
- (b) For the provision of general dental services under Part IV of this Act by dental practitioners.
- (c) For the provision of pharmaceutical services under Part IV of this Act by registered pharmacists.
- (d) For the provision or organisation of any of the services which the Local Health Authority are required or empowered to provide.
- (e) For the provision of the services of specialists or other services provided for out-patients under Part III of this Act.
- (f) For the exercise of the powers conferred on the Local Health Authority by Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, or Section 298 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, for the publication of information on questions related to health or disease and for the delivery of lectures and for the display of pictures or cinematograph films in which questions are dealt with.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Section 22

Child Welfare Clinics.

There were at the end of 1955 under the control of the department :—

- 19 infant welfare centres with 29 weekly sessions.
- 9 ante-natal clinics with weekly sessions.
- 1 post-natal clinic with 1 weekly session.
- 7 toddlers and 1 special clinics.

The 19 welfare centres at present in use are as follows :—

<i>Welfare Centre.</i>	<i>Type of Premises.</i>	<i>Sessions days per week.</i>	<i>Infant Welfare.</i>	<i>Ante- Natal.</i>	<i>Post- Natal.</i>	<i>Toddlers.</i>	<i>Special.</i>
Gulson Road	Modern Clinic, Corporation	Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri.	1	1	1	1	1
Abbey Road	Rented church hall	Tues.	1	—	—	—	—
Broad Street	" chapel hall	Mon.	1	—	—	—	—
Bell Green	" rooms, Community Centre	Tues.	1	1	—	—	—
Binley	" Miners Institute	Mon.	1	—	—	—	—
Pinley	" hall Community Centre	Wed.	1	—	—	—	—
Canley	" ex-hostel sick bay	Mon. Tues. Wed.	1	1	—	1	—
Cheylesmore	" " "	Mon. Wed. Thurs.	1	1	—	1	—
Fletchamstead	" chapel hall	Thurs.	1	—	—	—	—
Green Lane	" church hall	Fri.	1	—	—	—	—
Holyhead Road	" hall	Wed. Fri.	1	1	—	—	—
Links Road	" church hall	Tues.	1	—	—	—	—
Lockhurst Lane	" chapel hall	Wed.	1	—	—	1	—
Longford	School Clinic, Windmill Road	Wed. Thurs.	1	1	—	—	—
Poole Road	Part of day nursery	Tues. Fri.	1	1	—	1	—
Stoke Heath	" school room	Tues.	—	—	—	1	—
Stratford Street	Rented church hall	Tues.	1	—	—	—	—
Wheelwright Lane	" chapel hall	Mon.	1	—	—	—	—
Wyken	" church hall	Fri.	1	1	—	—	—
Whoberley	" ex-hostel sick bay	Mon. Wed. Thurs.	1	1	—	1	—
	Totals ...		19	9	1	7	1

In addition the following clinics are held at Gulson Road: B.C.G.: Tuesday and Friday
 Paediatric: Friday

The Broad Street Infant Welfare Centre and School Health Clinic, referred to in my last Annual Report, is now completed and came into use in January, 1956.

This modern building of attractive design is situated at the junction of Broad Street and Stoney Stanton Road on what was previously a fairly large bomb damaged site. Needless to say, the lay out of the Centre has pleasingly improved this area and has, moreover, enabled the clearance of a number of dilapidated cottages. Fundamentally, however, the Centre will bring greatly improved maternity and child welfare facilities for mothers and young children in the Broad Street and nearby areas.

The building is, of course, a compromise on that originally planned, but it was found necessary to jettison the idea of a more comprehensive Health Centre, which was to have included general practitioner medical and dental suites: unfortunately, the provision of such facilities had little appeal for doctors and dentists practising in this area.

The City Architect was responsible for the design of the new building and for the supervision of its construction by J. G. Gray Limited.

The Tile Hill Infant Welfare Centre and School Health Clinic, which is now in course of construction in Jardine Crescent, is situated in the newly developing area of Tile Hill North and is situated near the western periphery of the city: it is hoped that it will be completed and in use by the autumn of 1956.

Here again the original intention was to provide a comprehensive Health Centre, but a series of difficulties originating both locally and centrally has caused a major modification of the plans. Negotiations are proceeding with interested general practitioners and with the Local Executive Council and Local Medical Committee in an effort to agree to the construction of general practitioner suites, waiting rooms and ancillary facilities adjoining the Infant Welfare Centre and School Health Clinic. There are now encouraging signs for believing that a genuine basis of agreement may be reached between interested general practitioners and the Local Authority. It is hoped that no further major difficulties will mitigate against the advancement of this second part of the scheme in the near future.

It has been possible to meet public demand in the Earlsdon district by inaugurating (January 1st, 1956) an Infant Welfare Centre in the St. Barbara's Church Hall, Palmerston Road: this provision has been necessary for some considerable time.

The proposed scheme for the building of a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the Stoke Aldermoor district still awaits final approval from the Ministry of Health, and it is hoped, in the interests of residents in that area who have perforce been required to be satisfied with very moderate maternity and child welfare facilities because of the complete lack of an appropriate building, that such sanction will shortly be forthcoming.

Care of Premature Infants.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 20/44, routine arrangements made in this connection still continue to operate as follows :—

The notification of all infants $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and under at birth.

The availability of four premature baby sets, consisting of treasure cot filled with pockets for hot water bottles; rubber hot water bottles; mackintosh covered flock pillows; Gamgee suits and Belcroy feeders. These sets have been in use 10 times during the year.

Each midwife keeps in reserve two Gamgee baby suits and a maternity outfit for use in emergency cases.

Oxygen supplies are available at the Health Department and at the Ambulance Station also, for the use of any doctor or midwife.

Special carry cots are available at the Ambulance Station for the transport of premature babies to hospital when necessary.

The services of a consultant pædiatrician are available on request by medical practitioners in the city.

The following are statistics of premature births occurring within the city during 1955 :—

- *1. The number of live premature babies notified in the city was 249.
2. Of the above 85 were born at home, 157 in Gulson Hospital and 7 in nursing homes.
3. Of those born at home (85), 31 were transferred to hospital within 24 hours; of the 54 remaining in their own homes, 0 died in the first 24 hours and 54 were alive at the expiration of one month.
4. Of those born in hospital (157), 18 died in the first 24 hours and 128 were alive at the expiration of one month.
5. Of those born in nursing homes (7), none died in the first 24 hours and 7 were alive at the expiration of one month.

*The number of premature babies born in Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Keresley, was 111. These are not included in the figure 249 shown above, as the hospital is situate in the county area.

Dental Care.

The Senior School Dentist (Mr. M. Raeside) advises me that the following work (see table below) was accomplished during 1955 in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

(a) Numbers provided with dental care.

	Examined	Needing treatment	Treated	Made dentally fit as far as possible
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	58	40	40	
Children under five	171	145	145	Dental sepsis eradicated but no dentures provided

(b) Forms of dental treatment provided.

	Extractions	Anæsthetics		Fillings	Scalings or Scaling and gum treatment	Silver Nitrate treatment	Dressings	Radio-graphs	Dentures provided	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	90	—	24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Children under five	410	—	135	8	—	—	—	—	—	—

It is to be regretted that no further recruits to the Local Authority's dental service have been forthcoming during the year and it is quite out of the question to consider an improvement in dental availabilities at our Clinics until more dentists can be employed.

Supply of Welfare Foods.

Dried milks from a selected list and other suitable preparations are stocked at the Infant Welfare Centres, either for sale, or if the need is proved, for free issue.

During the year sales to the value of £9,801 10s. 7d. were made at the various centres; this compares with £10,803 12s. 5d. in 1954 and £11,106 19s. 8d. in 1953.

It will be recalled that in my last year's report I mentioned that the department had taken over from the Ministry of Food the local arrangements for the supply of National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil. A temporary shop in Jordan Well was rented for this purpose and sales continued from these premises until early October, 1955, when arrangements for sale and distribution were transferred to a shop prepared in a part of the basement of the New Council Offices in Earl Street.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

Standardised maternity outfits are available from the Health Department for the needs of expectant mothers who are to be confined at home. A recommendation signed by the midwife or doctor is required before issue.

In 1955 the number of such outfits issued was 2,270. Since 5th July, 1948, no charge has been made for these. The outfits have been modified to meet the requirements of mothers and the attendant general practitioners.

Nursery Provision.

Day Nurseries.

The nine day nurseries in the city area continued to function as previously and the following relevant statistics indicate the demand made upon the service during the year.

The scheme for training nursery nurses continues and during the year 12 nurses have received the N.N.E.B. certificates and 1 obtained the additional certificate in infant care.

The amended standard of accommodation gives the number of places as 435. Attendances during the year have increased from 81,867 to 84,188, a percentage of 2.8: each child made an average of 221 attendances on the 245 days that the nurseries opened.



Papenham Green Day Nursery (from playground)



Broad Street Centre.

Central Hall.



Papenham Green Day Nursery.

Tweenies Room.

DAY NURSERY	Number of Places	ATTENDANCES		Total Attendances
		Age 0 to 2 years	Age 2 to 5 years	
Papenham Green	50	3,473	5,769	9,242
Foleshill	70	6,921	6,430	13,351
Monks Park	50	4,156	6,140	10,296
Poole Road	40	2,213	5,502	7,715
Queen Philippa	54	5,646	4,803	10,449
Stoke Green	55	3,952	6,231	10,183
Whoberley	40	2,314	6,843	8,657
Windmill Road	36	1,943	3,995	5,938
Wyken	40	2,900	5,457	8,357
Total	435	33,518	50,670	84,188

The new Papenham Green Day Nursery was opened for use on April 13th. Suitable furniture and equipment was transferred from the former Canley Day Nursery and approximately £700 worth of new furniture was also found necessary and purchased.

The building, which is shown on the frontispiece of this report was erected to the design of the City Architect and according to our requirements at an estimated cost of £16,875. The nursery is situate in the south eastern corner of the city and is in the centre of a new residential district.

During the year rather extensive repairs were found to be necessary at the Stoke Green Day Nursery, a quite old building, and these were carried out.

CARE OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Mother and Baby Home.

The Health Committee have the provision of such a Home in mind and indeed this was envisaged in their schemes approved under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The provision of other more urgent departmental projects have perforce been given priority up to the moment but it is hoped that a Mother and Baby Home will be forthcoming within a fairly reasonable time.

Our agency arrangements with St. Faith's Shelter continue for the reception of such unmarried mothers and their babies whose care and maintenance has become that of the local health authority. During 1955 there were 49 mothers and 38 babies accommodated through this Shelter on our behalf.

In addition, the department has accepted responsibility for the maintenance of 20 mothers and their expected children in other homes (*e.g.* London, Birmingham, etc).

MIDWIFERY

Section 23

The City Council is the local supervising authority under the Midwives' Acts, and during the year 1955 received notice of intention to practise midwifery from the following :—

Municipal Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	38
Midwives employed in nursing homes	...	...	...	...	...	4
Independent domiciliary midwives	...	...	...	...	...	7
Hospital midwives	...	...	...	...	...	10

There are eight houses and three flats provided by the Council for municipal midwives, and telephones are installed in all midwives' houses.

The liaison between general practitioners and municipal midwives continues to be generally very satisfactory.

The Council have also approved a loan scheme so that midwives are able to purchase cars and repay the Council over a period of four years.

A summary of statistics is given below :—

	1955.	1954.
No. of births attended :		
Doctor not present	1,727	1,659
Doctor present ...	189	184
	<hr/> 1,916	<hr/> 1,843
No. of visits paid :—		
(a) Ante-natal ...	12,218	11,630
(b) Nursing ...	41,463	47,988
(c) Special visits ...	874	947
(d) Visits to patients returned from hospital ...	5,631	5,284
(e) No. of patients returned from hospital for nursing at home before the 14th day ...	1,747	1,658
No. of requests for medical aid ...	457	562
No. of cases transferred to hospitals ...	229	221
No. of cases in which gas and air analgesia was used ...	1,528	1,473
No. of abortions ...	26	25
No. of advisory attendances made at :		
(a) Ante-natal clinics ...	917	892
(b) Post-natal clinics ...	143	133
No. of analgesic machines in use in department	41	40
No. of municipal midwives trained to use machines ...	38	38

The independent midwives attended 22 confinements during the year; they administered gas and analgesia in 11 cases and sent for medical aid in 3 cases.

The number of births occurring in private nursing homes was 189; here there were 154 gas-air analgesia administrations and no medical aid was required. It is likely that certain of our older gas and air machines will be replaced by new Trilene apparatus in the course of a few months.

HEALTH VISITING

Section 24

The integration of the nursing services in the work of health visiting and of school health was completed during the year following the opening of the new Council Offices and the centralisation there of all health services. As a result of this the re-organised staff available with effect from 1/4/1955 was as follows—1 Superintendent Health Visitor; 2 Deputy Superintendent Health Visitors (one for maternity and child welfare and general health visiting work, the other for school health work); 25 full-time and 1 part-time health visitors; 17 health nurses (10 of whom were granted temporary dispensation by the Ministry of Health to undertake certain health visiting duties); and 5 full-time tuberculosis health visitors.

For the general combined purpose of health visiting, including domiciliary home visitation, routine and special medical inspections at schools, attendance at infant welfare centres and clinics, the city has been divided into nine areas with a team of one medical officer with two, three or four health visitors and one or two school nurses to cover all duties in the area as far as possible. In arranging the work in these areas an attempt has been made to ensure fairly even distribution of clinics, schools and day nurseries, etc., so that all medical and nursing staff will have relatively equal interests and duties to undertake.

For the first time for a number of years the health visiting staff has approached our establishment figure.

A tabulated record of the work done—exclusive of any school health service work—is given in the following table:—

Health Visiting: Tabulation of Work.

	1955		1954
Ante-natal cases	614		450
Notified births	4,626		4,347
Revisits to notified births	11,463		10,767
,, ,, Children aged 1—2 years 6,796		5,832	} 19,531
,, ,, ,, ,, 2—5 ,, 16,264	23,060	13,699	
Infant death enquiries	101		123
Stillbirth enquiries	83		89

Visits to ophthalmia cases	3		49
,, ,, tuberculosis cases	2,657		4,902
,, ,, non-pulmonary tuberculosis cases	297		44
,, ,, B.C.G. cases by T.B. visitors	522		—
,, ,, other infectious diseases ...	161		18
,, ,, special cases	2,900		1,704
,, under Public Health Act, 1936	—		—
,, to homes under Public Health Act, 1936	—		—
,, to homes no reply	10,269		—
,, ,, contacts of poliomyelitis ...	1		6
,, ,, ,, ,, cerebro-spinal fever	2		11
B.C.G. visits for Medical Research Council	1,222		2,181
Swabs taken of diphtheria contacts ...	7		—
Sessions at Welfare Centres	5,358		4,093

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

Cases investigated	...	...	...	92
Cases treated at hospital	...	...	...	31
Cases treated by Out-Patients' Department	...	...	...	34
Cases treated by own doctor	...	...	...	19
Cases treated at home	...	...	...	12
Cases treated by chemist	...	...	...	1

Nature of Accidents.

Burns and scalds	...	...	...	28
Cuts and bruises	...	...	...	28
Head injuries	...	...	...	5
Shock	...	...	...	1
Fractures	...	...	...	10
Poisoning	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	9

Ninety two investigations were made during 1955, and revealed that the number of cuts and bruises had risen, as compared with 1954, and there was a definite increase in the cases of poisoning.

The cuts and bruises appear to have been caused mainly by uncontrollable climbing in confined areas—*e.g.*, climbing on to tables and other articles of furniture, and falling.

The worst cuts of all came from milk bottles. There were no fewer than six accidents caused by broken milk bottles, and the saddest one of all occurred when a mother, who was pregnant, broke a bottle in the hall, and was on the way to clear up the pieces, when her toddler fell and caused an injury to her eye which later had to be removed. This appears to indicate a need for the safer, though unfortunately more expensive, method of having milk in cartons.

A two-year-old child had access to a chopper with which he chopped off his baby sister's finger end!

Parents, it is regrettable to note, have been rather neglectful in failing to lock up phenobarbitone and fersolate tablets which a number of children have mistaken for sweets.

During the bad weather a child was in his pram outside the back door, and hit by a fall of snow from the roof. Fortunately, this was not a serious injury, but the incident was very distressing.

Several accidents have been caused by ill-fitting bedroom windows, from which children have fallen; and parents still show lack of care when they allow fireworks to be exploded in the house.

The investigation reveals that there is a great need for extensive teaching and education in the homes, so as to prevent many unnecessary accidents.

HOME NURSING

Section 25

The staff engaged in the Home Nursing Service at 31st December, 1955, was as follows:—

- 1 Superintendent
- 2 Assistant Superintendents
- 49 Full-time nurses (including 3 male nurses)
- 10 Part-time nurses
- 1 Clerk-telephonist.

The staffing position remained fairly satisfactory during the year with an encouraging number of general trained nurses taking the course for their Queens Certificate in our Training Home. The reserve of trained Queens Nurses resulting from these courses is one of the reasons for this locality being able to maintain its establishment and has enabled us to meet the heavy demands which continue to be made upon the service.

The question of transport, and particularly its cost, has been under serious consideration during the year. The use of bicycles and of motor assisted cycles by our nursing staff is less popular, and, indeed, it is less safe also in our highly industrialised and motor minded city. As a result the cost of hired motor transport for this service has steadily increased. The provision of two additional 8 h.p. cars was authorised during the year, as was also the extension of garage accommodation at the Nurses' Home in Park Road. It is anticipated that the cars and additional garage accommodation will be available early in 1956, and it is hoped thereby that a considerable reduction in the cost of outside transport will be achieved.

Statistics for Year ended 31st December, 1955.

	1955.	1954.
Total number of cases attended	6,927	6,717
Number of new cases attended	6,138	6,034
Number of visits made, including night visits	218,952	219,897
Number of operations attended	42	45
New cases referred for treatment by:—		
Private doctors	5,767	5,411
Health Department	87	196
Hospitals	284	427
	<hr/> 6,138 <hr/>	<hr/> 6,034 <hr/>

Results of treatment were as follows :—

Convalescent	...	...	...	3,602	3,495
Sent to hospital	...	...	...	677	780
Relieved	...	...	...	1,124	1,080
Died	...	...	...	673	573
Remaining under care	...	...	...	851	789
				<hr/> 6,927	<hr/> 6,717

The winter of 1955 was again fairly severe and its resultant effect on the rate of sickness in the community was reflected in the continued heavy demand placed upon the nursing service. As always, the added burden was cheerfully accepted and fulfilled by our nurses and superintendent staff, to whom every credit is due.

There was a continued increase in the number of new cases coming forward for nursing attention, and thereby of the total cases attended, so that it has been necessary to make a selected reduction in the number of calls per patient so as to cope with the situation. It will also be appreciated that the shortage of hospital beds in the area, coupled with the heavy demand made upon them, has made it imperative, generally speaking, for a quicker turnover of patients. This has obviously had its direct effect upon the Home Nursing Service by providing an enhanced number of cases for domiciliary nursing care.

During the year the number of old age pensioners receiving nursing attention was 1,922 as compared with 1,757 and 1,771 respectively in the preceding years. Such attention to the aged by our nursing service is of obvious benefit to the hospitals, since it tends to reduce the demand on much needed hospital beds. Moreover, such an arrangement is conducive to a happier state of mind for elderly people, who, on the whole, prefer to stay within the confines of their own homes when possible.

There was some reduction in the injection therapy work during the year, but the figure of 100,862 injections given (102,627 in 1954) is still at a high level.

An analysis of the work carried out during the year is given in the following table :—

No. of patients on the books at 1st January	...	...	...	...	789
No. of new patients during the year	...	...	...	...	6,138
No. of patients on the books at 31st December	...	...	...	...	851
No. of patients nursed during the year	...	...	...	...	6,927
No. of visits paid	...	...	...	...	218,952

<i>Reason for visit.</i>	<i>No. of cases.</i>
Medical	2,212
Surgical	1,354
Infectious Diseases	25
Tuberculosis	270
Maternal Complications	124
Others	—
Nursing and attendance on old age pensioners ...	2,531
„ „ „ „ children under 5 ...	411
	<hr/> 6,927 <hr/>

Injections given in 1955.

Insulin 39,065; penicillin 33,123; streptomycin 11,261; morphia 3,940; vit. B 249; adrenalin 72; anahaemin 1,909; cytamin 1,804; pethadine 333; progesterone 168; prostigmin 324; calcium 44; A.T.S. 5; testosterone 81; neptal 4,324; mersalyl 4,047; cardophylin 113. Total 100,862.

In addition to these figures, the Superintendent or her Assistants made 4,107 supervisory visits.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Section 26

Vaccines and immunisation preparations continue to be available to general practitioners from this department upon request: lymph for vaccination against smallpox can readily be made available via the Birmingham City Laboratory.

There were more cases of poliomyelitis notified in the city during 1955 than in the preceding year so that it was considered necessary to discontinue immunisation procedures generally during the late summer and early autumn months.

In previous Annual Reports I have been insistent in saying that our continuing good fortune in this city in avoiding notifications and, indeed, deaths from diphtheria was entirely dependent upon the attitude of mind which the population adopted towards this form of protection. I have persistently reminded, and, indeed, warned parents in the Coventry area that it is only by their whole hearted co-operation and acceptance of diphtheria immunisation that the effects of this insidious and dreadful disease can be kept at arms length. There is always the danger of complacency when a disease has seemingly been eliminated from our midst; and, in fact, that is just the time when we should be exercising greater observance.

It is, therefore, with regret that I have to report the death of a Coventry citizen from this cause during the year—an un-

necessary death since the victim had not been immunised; and also the notification of a further five cases of the disease (all unimmunised).

I have pleaded on many occasions with parents to ensure that their children are adequately protected, and I have no hesitation in making a like appeal on this occasion: surely immunisation is a simple enough matter and a small price to pay for relative safety from diphtheria.

Vaccination.

Some 1,790 persons were vaccinated for the first time during the year. This is a decrease of 61 from the previous year but 1,181 more than in 1948, the last year of compulsory vaccination, when 609 were vaccinated. This gives an approximate increase of 200% in the vaccination rate which surely gives some cause for satisfaction.

The following are statistics available for the year ended 31st December, 1955:—

Number of invitations sent out to parents of newly born children:—

for vaccination	...	...	...	3,576
for immunisation	...	...	...	3,576

Completed Immunisations and Vaccinations.

			<i>Infant Welfare.</i>	<i>Private Doctors.</i>	<i>Schools.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
(a)	For diphtheria immunisation including combined	...	1,574	1,584	2,056	5,214
(b)	Secondary or boosting injections	... ..	101	555	3,987	4,643
(c)	For whooping cough immunisation only	...	606	409	—	1,015
(d)	For vaccination	...	†939	851	—	1,790
(e)	For revaccination	...	*50	171	—	221

†This figure includes 61 vaccinated at The Health Department.

*All these people were re-vaccinated at The Health Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Section 27

The demands made upon the local Ambulance Service continue at a high level, although there has been a slight decrease both in the total mileage and in the number of patients conveyed during 1955: largely due to the replacement of hired public transport vehicles by those Ambulance Service vehicles now used for the transportation of expectant mothers to Grove House for routine mass radiography.

The total number of patients conveyed by the City Ambulance Service during 1955 was 115,860, with an average of 317 patients carried per day. The mileage covered was 392,968, giving an average of 1,076 miles covered per day or an average of 3.39 miles per patient.

The continued pressure of calls upon the service is due to a variety of reasons, *e.g.* (1) The continuing population increase in this City (1948—250,400: 1955—267,300) and, therefore, greater demands made by those living in new peripheral housing estates, *e.g.*, at Canley, Tile Hill, Bell Green, Willenhall, Walsgrave, etc.: (2) An increased number of beds for City cases within the Group 20 Hospital Management Committee administrative area: (3) A greater availability of sanatoria beds for Coventry cases in surrounding counties: (4) Greater transport requirements needed for mental defectives in attendance at the Burns Road Occupation Centre.

The reduction in mileage during the last two years has been achieved by greater efficiency in control and to the enhanced usage of radio telecommunication equipment.

The use of 'J' type sitting case ambulances provides an economical means of transporting patients and has been an improvement upon the private cars and more traditional type of ambulance previously in use: moreover, the 'J' type vehicle gives lower running costs and their initial cost is also less than those which they have replaced.

The following table of comparative statistics for the years 1951 to 1955 will be of interest:—

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of patients carried	89,041	101,486	112,636	119,022	115,860
No. of miles travelled	429,296	430,397	437,791	420,534	392,968
Average mileage per patient	4.8	4.2	3.8	3.5	3.39

The two charts which appear hereinafter show (1) the average and maximum number of patients moved each day of the week for a whole year, and (2) the average and maximum number of

patients moved during two-hourly periods throughout a twenty-four hour day, and this illustrates the work performed by the various shifts which run from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

I am indebted to the Ambulance Superintendent (Mr. L. Warwick) for the following detailed report:

“STAFF.

The staff engaged in the operation of the Ambulance Service at 31st December was as follows:—(the comparative figures for 1954 are shown in brackets.)

Superintendent	1	(1)
Deputy Superintendent	1	(1)
Sub-Officer	1	(2)
Shift Leaders	4	(4)
Sub-Shift Leaders	4	(4)
Ambulance Drivers (male)	48	(48)
Ambulance Drivers (female)	9	(8)
Attendant (female)	1	(2)
Mechanics	4	(4)
Telephonist	1	(1)
Handyman	1	(1)
TOTAL ...	75	(76)

This is 7 below an authorised establishment of 82 personnel.

Eight of the staff qualified to become members of the Corporations' Superannuation Scheme, bringing the total number of superannuated members in the department up to 31.

The following table shows the years of service with the Corporation of the employees.

20 years service or over	1
15 „ „ „ „ „ ..	4
10 „ „ „ „ „ ..	8
5 „ „ „ „ „ ..	14
Under 5 years service	48
Total ...	75

Staff Changes.

Of the 7 employees who left the department during the year, 2 went to the Public Health Department, 1 to the City Fire Brigade, 1 to the City Engineers Department, 1 to Warwickshire County Council and 2 to other employment.

There were 15 applications for vacant posts, of whom 6 were appointed.

Health of Staff.

The health of the personnel has remained satisfactory throughout the year : 686 days were lost through Certified illness and a further 70 days through absence without leave.

None of the staff were absent as a result of any injury sustained during the course of their employment.

Duties and Leave.

The Shift-Leaders, Sub-Shift Leaders and male drivers work on a three shift system with hours of duty as follows :—6—2; 2—10 and 10—6. The female staff work only during the daytime from 8—5 or 9—6. Alternate 40 and 48 hour weeks are worked by all personnel who are paid weekly. As in all similar services, some overtime is inevitable, and this is arranged as necessary according to the demands on the service.

One member of the staff was called upon to undertake 9 days army training, whilst two others attended a Home Office Civil Defence Course at Falfield for a total of 21 days; unfortunately, due to illness, I was forced to return home when attending this course.

Patients.

A comparison of the average and maximum number of patients carried daily over previous years is as follows :—

				<i>Average</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
				<i>per day.</i>	<i>per day.</i>
5.7.48 to 31.12.48	...	...	154	—
1.1.49 to 31.12.49	...	...	181	296
1.1.50 to 31.12.50	...	...	202	344
1.1.51 to 31.12.51	...	...	244	397
1.1.52 to 31.12.52	...	...	277	473
1.1.53 to 31.12.53	...	...	308	466
1.1.54 to 31.12.54	...	...	326	543
1.1.55 to 31.12.55	...	...	317	526

In comparing recent figures with those of 1948, it will be noted that there has been a 100% increase, although for the year under review there has been a slight decrease both in the number of patients and in mileage.

Vehicles.

The operational strength of vehicles at 31st December was as follows :—

General Purpose Ambulances	...	...	13
Small Sitting Case Ambulances	...	...	9
Large Sitting Case Ambulances	...	...	2
Sitting Case Cars	...	...	3
			—
Total	...		27
			—

The maximum carrying capacity of all these vehicles at any one time would be :—

Stretcher Cases	...	...	...	...	32
Sitting Cases	...	...	...	...	108
					<hr/>
Total	...				140
					<hr/>

Other vehicles operated by the department include :—

- 2 Old Shooting-Brakes.
- 1 New Estate Car.

New vehicles commissioned during the year include :—

- 1 Hillman Estate Car.
- 1 Bedford Ambulance with bodywork by Herbert Lomas Ltd.

These have displaced two old Morris-Commercial ambulances which were withdrawn from service during December,

Delivery is awaited of :—

- 1 Bedford Ambulance with Lomas bodywork.
- 1 Bedford Ambulance with Pilcher bodywork.

These will replace a further two Morris-Commercial ambulances which will be withdrawn from service as soon as these are delivered.

A further Dennis Ambulance has been ordered for delivery during 1956/57. This is a new type of vehicle with a very low floor and fitted with a deisel engine, which should reduce running costs.

Of the ambulances, one is reserved entirely for the conveyance of patients suffering from infectious diseases.

The Airport ambulance is now garaged at the Airport, but it is manned by personnel from this department and charged to the Airport account. Maintenance to the vehicle is carried out by our own garage staff.

Two other ambulances belonging to the Civil Defence Corps are garaged and maintained by the ambulance service, but are only used in connection with Civil Defence Duties.

Petrol and Oil Supplies.

Supplies of petrol and oil are obtained in accordance with the Councils' bulk purchasing arrangements and are stored in bulk tanks. The Service provides fuel on charge for all vehicles of the Health Department and Civil Defence Ambulances, and, in addition by mutual arrangement, for vehicles from other ambulance services coming to or passing through the City on production of a standard requisition.

Uniform.

Uniform clothing, comprising jacket, trousers (or skirts for Lady drivers) hats, footwear, shirt and ties and overcoats or raincoats are supplied at 18 month intervals, through bulk purchasing arrangements.

Methods of Transmission of Calls.

All telephone calls are received through the switchboard in the Control room on Coventry 5041-2 or 3 or by one of the direct lines from the Fire Brigade, the City Police, Coventry and Warwickshire or Gulson Hospitals additionally, a hand operated telephone connects the control room with the ambulance enquiry kiosk at Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.

By arrangement with the G.P.O. an additional telephone with a distinctive sounding bell is connected direct to the senior operator at the Telephone Exchange for the purpose of receiving "999" priority calls, and this ensures immediate attention. Over 3,000 calls were received on this line alone.

Ambulance Enquiry Kiosk.

The ambulance enquiry kiosk in the main entrance hall at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital is staffed during the daytime, from 9 till 5.30 p.m., by a member of the service, whose duty it is to receive, correlate and co-ordinate all hospital out-patient requirements before passing them to the ambulance control room. This system reduces the amount of waiting time for patients and obviates the duplication of requests and of journeys.

Radio—Tele-communications

As new vehicles are purchased, radio equipment is transferred to them from older vehicles or those which are to be used less, but there are still only 15 mobile sets available for the full fleet of 28 vehicles, although plans are in hand to increase the number of sets.

Arising partly from the continued use of V.H.F. radio, the average mileage per patient is again reduced to 3.39. This compares with 3.5 in 1954, 3.8 in 1953 and 5.3 in 1950 before the equipment was installed. Maintenance of this special equipment is carried out at regular intervals by the manufacturers service department.

As more sets become available, a still further reduction in mileage, and a greater efficiency will result.

Accident and Emergency Journeys.

There was an increase of 393 in the number of accident and emergency journeys made during the year, bringing the total to 4,739. It is still distressing to note that of these, 1,339 or 25.9%, occurred in the home. One redeeming feature is that only 21 persons, (compared with 36 during 1954) received burns caused by fire. Even so, some of these were of a serious nature necessi-

tating express transport to the Burns Unit of the Birmingham Accident Hospital.

Of the 4,739 accidents attended, 272 (3 less than 1954) were outside the City boundary. The majority of these were either on or to the south of the main Birmingham to London road between Meriden and Stretton-on-Dunsmore.

On 4 occasions two ambulances were required and on 2 other occasions three ambulances were required to deal with accidents where a number of persons had been injured.

By arrangement, the Coventry Ambulance Service deals with the transport to Hospital of persons injured at the factories of Messrs. Armstrong Whitworth Ltd. at Ansty, Baginton and Parkside Works, but these are treated by the works medical staff and calls are not excessive.

The biggest accident attended was on the 1st October when two Corporation 'buses were in collision at Hearsall Common. Some 22 serious cases were taken to Hospital by ambulance whilst about 40 other minor casualties were conveyed by a 'bus and private cars.

The following table indicates the source of origin of Accident Calls received :—

'999' calls from members of the public ...	2,654
Calls on 5041 (mostly industrial premises) ...	1,076
Doctors on 5041 ...	127
Police private line ...	664
Fire Brigade private line ...	32
Hospital private lines ...	110
Verbal messages to Control Room ...	18
Vehicle Radio from Ambulances on other work ...	58
	<hr/>
	4,739
	<hr/>

On 294 occasions the services of the ambulance, on arrival, were not required, but it is thought that in all but 34 of these, the call was made with good intent.

On 116 occasions the patients were dead as a result of sudden illness or accident and after certification by a doctor at the scene or at the hospital, were conveyed to the Public Mortuary.

The following table shows how these deaths occurred :—

Collapse ...	70
Mines ...	2
Work ...	4
Street ...	6
Home (mostly suicides) ...	28
Railway lines ...	2
Factories ...	2
Public places ...	2
	<hr/>
Total ...	116
	<hr/>

Novox Resuscitators.

During the year the "Novox" resuscitators were used on 16 occasions on patients who had collapsed or who were asphyxiated. On 14 of these occasions the patients were successfully restored to consciousness.

The five sets available are all inspected and tested weekly.

City Traffic Congestion.

Due to the traffic congestion in the central streets of the city, especially during peak periods, some delay is liable to occur with accident calls, but, by co-operation with the police, these delays are kept to a minimum.

Some delay is also liable to occur when dealing with shop premises in the Precinct where vehicular traffic is prohibited. It does occur when the ambulance has to be left either in Broadgate or the Market Street South whilst the crew walk to the site of the accident.

Occupation Centre, Burns Road.

Extra demands continue for additional transport to carry mental defectives to and from the Occupation Centre daily. This is carefully controlled by close co-operation with the Mental Health Section.

In addition to the three ambulance service vehicles used daily for this purpose, a further vehicle is hired from a local coach operator, although the escort is provided by this service. The transport of pupils to and from the Occupation Centre accounts for 16,854 of the total number of patients carried during the year.

Treatment at the Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa.

Patients are taken each day from their homes in Coventry to the Pump Rooms at Leamington for various forms of spa treatment.

In addition, two journeys are made each week to take children attending Baginton Fields Special School for treatment at Leamington.

Civil Defence.

Since the City Council resumed responsibility for Civil Defence in the City two First Aid classes have been arranged. The Civil Defence Corps have appointed Driving instructors to train their fellow members on the two Corps Ambulances.

Inspections of First Aid Equipment.

By arrangement with the Water Engineer, an officer of the ambulance service has, on three occasions, inspected all First Aid Outfits in the Water Department Establishments and replenished stocks as necessary. This method has ensured that the equipment is at all times kept in usable condition.

Transport of Patients by Train.

The facilities offered by British Railways for the conveyance of patients to distant places by train have been utilised for 97 patients. The special "Parrot" stretcher was used on 8 occasions for transporting bedridden patients.

The 97 journeys by train have resulted in a saving of approximately 28,500 road miles. The temporary absence of both vehicles and personnel is a feature of long distance journeys, and any reduction in these calls is a definite saving.

The extended calls placed upon the Ambulance Service by the increasing use by the Hospital Management Committee of their Hospitals at Nuneaton, Rugby, Warwick and Bramcote for Coventry patients and the extended facilities for the treatment of tuberculosis in Hospitals, and sanatoria in various parts of the country have been noted and it may be of interest to record that no fewer than 12,939 or 11.1% of the total number of patients were concerned in these out of town journeys.

On one occasion two stillborn infants were removed from the Public Mortuary for burial in the London Road Cemetery after disposal Certificates had been issued by the Coroner.

Occasional abuses of the Ambulance Service facilities and a few difficulties which are common in all similar services occur from time to time, but these have dwindled to negligible proportions and are usually dealt with by the officer on duty.

The charts and tables which appear on the following pages illustrate further the work performed by the City Ambulance Service during the year.

In conclusion I would say that we in the Ambulance Service appreciate very much the interest shown by the Health Committee in the running of the service, and the most helpful day to day liaison with and co-operation of the Health Department. I also wish to thank the City Police, the Fire Brigade and the Hospital staffs for their valued co-operation throughout the year".

AMBULANCE SERVICE
Record of Work Performed for Year Ending 31st December, 1955.

(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
		No. of vehicles at 31.12.55	Total No. of journeys during year	Total No. of patients carried during year	Number of accident and emergency journeys during year (incl. in column 3)	Total mileage during year	No. of paid whole time staff at 31.12.55
Directly Provided Service	Ambulances	24	35854	114045	4710	362194	75
	Cars	3	1468	1815	29	30774	
		—	—	—	—	—	
Agency Service	Ambulances	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Cars	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supplementary Service	Ambulances	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Cars	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		27	37322	115860	4739	392968	75

CLASSIFICATION OF PATIENTS CONVEYED.

Patients involved in Accidents	For Treatment	After Treatment	Admissions	Discharges	Transfers	House to House	Total
4706	42134	43858	7865	5770	11374	153	115860

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TRANSPORT AND OTHER WORK (NUMBER OF JOURNEYS).

Home Nursing Service	Municipal Midwives	Public Health Dept.	Councillors	Civic Airport	Civil Defence	Hospital Equipment	Miscellaneous	Total
1029	22	57	0	50	0	1	32	1191

A point of interest is that the 1,029 journeys for the Home Nursing Service involved a total of 22,648 miles and 3,340 drivers hours. This gives an average of 9.1 hours and 62.0 miles per day with an average of 22.0 miles per journey.

SUMMARY OF THE LAST 6 YEARS' WORK.

	1955.	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
No. of Ambulances	24	25	23	24	20	21
No. of Cars	3	3	5	5	5	7
Number of paid whole-time Staff	75	76	80	79	81	74
No. of journeys by Ambulance	35,854	34,386	30,329	29,526	32,860	30,856
by Car	1,468	3,382	7,106	8,336	6,319	6,380
Total	37,322	37,768	37,435	37,862	39,179	37,236
No. of Patients by Ambulance	114,045	113,449	100,215	87,929	79,080	68,940
by Car	1,815	5,573	12,421	13,557	9,961	9,099
Total	115,860	119,022	112,636	101,486	89,041	78,039
% increase or decrease over previous year	2.6 Decrease	17.6 Increase	10.98 Increase	13.97 Increase	14.00 Increase	18.05 Increase
Total Mileage by Ambulance	362,194	346,127	335,584	301,252	317,574	308,922
by Car	30,774	74,407	102,207	129,145	111,722	118,069
Total	392,968	420,534	437,791	430,397	429,296	426,991
% increase or decrease over previous year	1.52 Decrease	2.53 Decrease	1.71 Increase	.25 Increase	.53 Increase	23.04 Increase

Total No. of patients during the 6 years as above	616,084
Total mileage during the 6 years as above	2,537,977
Average mileage per patient during the last 6 years	4.11

<i>Analysis of Patients Conveyed in Journeys out of Town</i>	<i>Total</i>
Patients discharged from, or after treatment at Coventry Hospitals to places outside the City	146
Patients for or after treatment in Hospitals or Clinics outside Coventry (excluding Keresley Hospital). ...	6,347
Patients discharged from Hospitals, Nursing Homes or Convalescent Homes outside Coventry (excluding Keresley Hospital).	1,698
Removals from private houses in Coventry to private houses in other towns	17
Admissions to Hospitals, Nursing Homes or Convalescent Homes outside city (excluding Keresley Hospital). ...	943
Transfers from Coventry Hospitals or Clinics to Hospitals, Convalescent Homes or Clinics outside Coventry. (excluding Keresley Hospital) or return	3,788
Total ...	12,939
Number of journeys by road of 50 miles or over from Coventry	80

CHART SHOWING THE DAILY
MAXIMUM & DAILY AVERAGE
NUMBER OF PATIENTS REMOVED
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

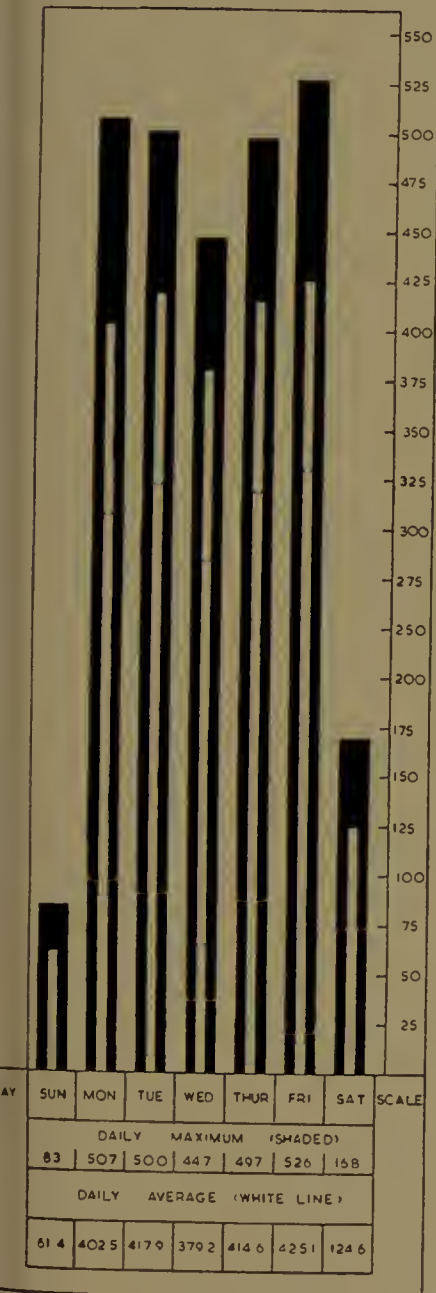
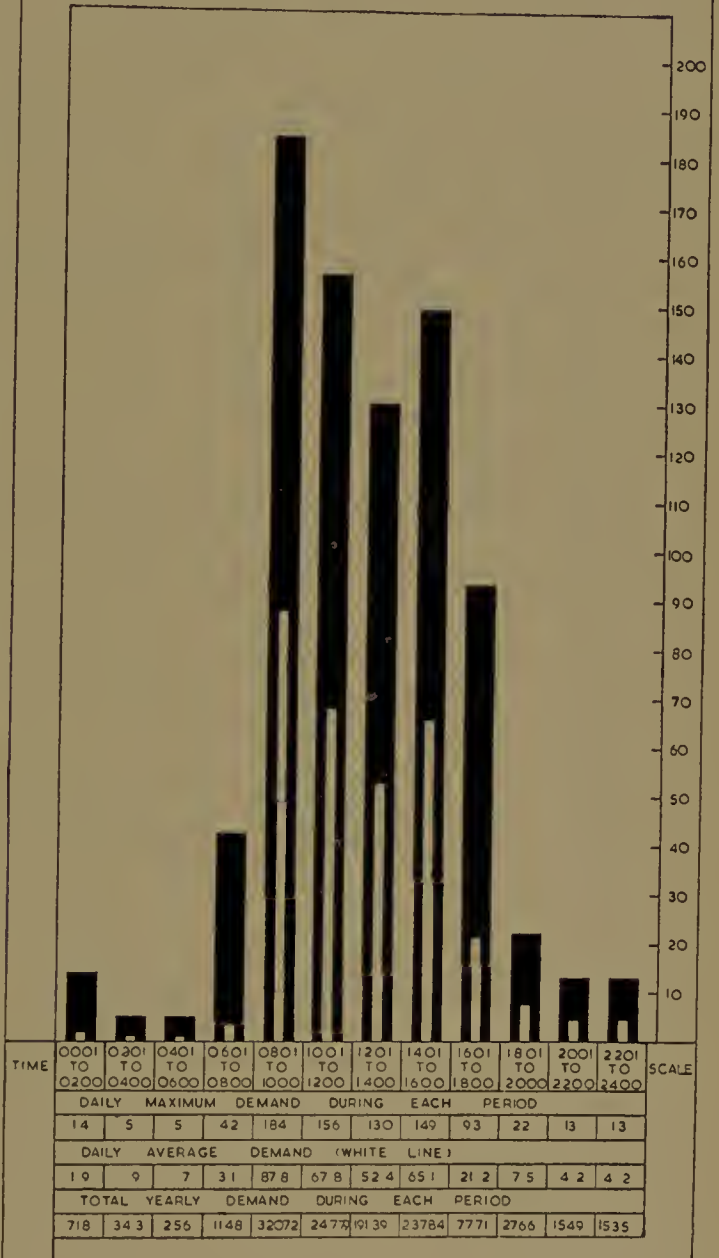
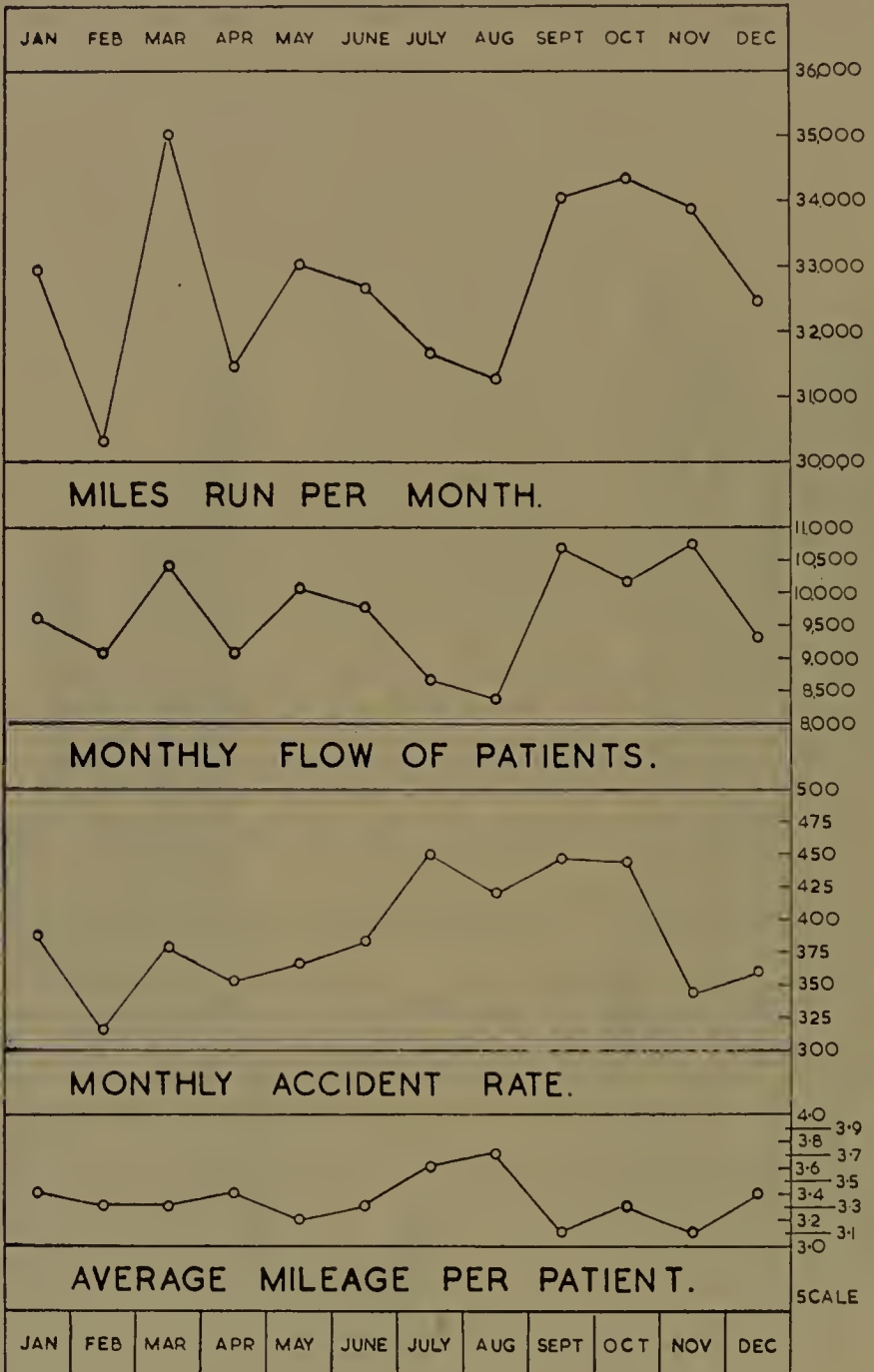


CHART SHOWING THE DAILY AVERAGE
DEMAND FOR AMBULANCE TRANSPORT
IN TWO HOURLY PERIODS DURING
THE 24 HOURS OF THE DAY.





VEHICLE

General Ambulances.

<i>Fleet Number.</i>	<i>Registration Number.</i>	<i>Make.</i>	<i>H.P.</i>	<i>Date Purchased.</i>	<i>Mileage during 1955.</i>
4	GVC 975	Humber Pullman	27	March 1948	12,167
5	GKV 211	" "	27	April 1948	13,054
6	HRW 967	" "	27	January 1949	14,316
7	FYH 107	Morris Commercial	16	August 1949	2,233
19	MWK 219	Bedford	27	November 1952	19,982
20	MWK 220	"	27	January 1953	20,529
21	MWK 221	"	27	February 1953	22,776
23	FYH 343	Morris Commercial	16	Made during the	8,162
24	FYH 513	" "	16	war years and	4,474
25	FYU 527	" "	16	taken over from	7,117
33	FYH 278	" "	16	H.S.F. on 5.7.53	10,210
40	PHP 40	Bedford	27	October 1954	19,078
41	PHP 41	"	27	November 1954	15,862
42	PRW 451	Karrier	33	October 1954	11,180
44	RVC 44	Bedford	27	November 1955	402
1955 TOTAL					181,542

Sitting Case Ambulances.

14	MHP. 579	Morris Com. P.V.	14	August 1952	12,186
15	MWK 315	Morris Com. "J"	14	December 1952	19,970
16	MWK 316	" " "	14	December 1952	15,402
17	MWK 317	" " "	14	February 1953	14,310
18	MWK 318	" " "	14	February 1953	22,534
22	MKV 288	Karrier	16	May 1953	17,857
35	PDU 35	Morris Com. "J"	14	July 1954	16,113
36	PDU 36	" " "	14	July 1954	15,664
37	PDU 37	" " "	14	July 1954	18,148
38	PDU 38	" " "	14	August 1954	12,999
39	PDU 39	" " "	14	September 1954	15,469
1955 TOTAL					180,652

Sitting Case Cars.

11	JHP 32	Humber Hawk	14	August 1949	6,723
12	JRW 242	" "	14	November 1949	14,248
13	JRW 635	" "	14	January 1950	8,903
1955 TOTAL					30,774

Other Vehicles

43	GRW 158	Willys Jeep	20	September 1947	1,675
	FDU 275	Humber Snipe	27		3,736
	RKV 643	Hillman Minx	10	November 1955	471
1955 TOTAL					5,882

STATISTICS, 1955

Petrol Consumed (Gallons.)	Oil Consumed. (Pints.)	M.P.G.	Total Vehicle Mileage.	Age of Vehicles.	
				Years.	Months.
1,450	355	8.3	140,183	7	10
1,631	242	8.0	133,608	7	9
1,611	424	8.8	131,679	7	0
239	56	9.3	Not known. Ex. W.D.	16	5
1,642	240	12.1	41,282	3	2
1,595	266	12.8	41,369	3	0
1,761	284	12.9	47,836	2	10
827	226	9.8	Not known. Ex. W.D.	16	1
460	89	9.7		15	11
1,043	296	6.8		15	10
906	154	11.2		16	3
1,636	147	11.6	20,551	1	3
1,501	120	10.5	16,831	1	2
1,414	74	7.9	13,090	1	3
48	4	8.3	660	—	2
17,764	2,977	10.2	Average age at 31.12.55	7	8
829	120	14.6	48,179	3	5
1,181	104	16.9	57,951	3	1
870	60	17.7	53,454	3	1
945	60	15.1	44,928	2	11
1,427	140	15.7	56,840	2	11
1,064	48	16.7	45,050	2	8
890	41	18.1	21,701	1	6
846	48	18.5	21,191	1	6
902	69	20.1	24,360	1	6
674	45	19.2	17,401	1	5
863	60	17.9	18,659	1	4
10,491	795	17.2	Average age at 31.12.55	2	3
630	156	10.6	129,490	6	5
914	194	15.5	124,006	6	2
603	99	14.9	110,670	6	0
2,147	449	14.3	Average age at 31.12.55	6	2
138	51	12.1	Not known. Ex. W.D.	16	0
465	63	8.0		16	0
31	0	15.1			2
634	114	9.2	Average age at 31.12.55	10	8

ANALYSIS OF PATIENT

FROM	TO :	C. & W. Hospital	Gulson Hospital	Keresley Hospital	Whitley Hospital	Paybody Hospital	Highview Hospital	Allesley Hall	Dover St. Clinic	Gulson Road Clinic	Nursing Homes	C. & W. Hospital Mortuary	Chest
HOME	27,308	4,080	2,083	756	32	212	12	1,780	187	103	121	5	
C. & W. HOSPITAL	—	638	1,018	646	37	10	299	4	—	15	—	—	
GULSON HOSPITAL	249	—	94	373	2	36	4	1	—	6	240	—	
KERESLEY HOSPITAL	869	51	—	78	2	—	—	—	—	6	194	—	
DOVER STREET CLINIC	4	1	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	
PAYBODY HOSPITAL	23	4	1	1	—	—	99	6	—	—	—	—	
ALLESLEY HALL	70	1	1	1	14	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	
NURSING HOMES	10	4	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	
PUMP ROOM, LEAMINGTON	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
WHITLEY HOSPITAL	499	487	46	—	2	4	11	1	4	1	39	—	
GULSON ROAD CLINIC	—	1	—	9	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
HIGHVIEW HOSPITAL	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES	54	9	1	3	—	18	—	9	—	—	3	—	
THE TOWERS, KENILWORTH	—	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
KENILWORTH CONVL. HOME	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	54	9	—	—	—	—	—	34	28	—	—	—	
OUT OF TOWN DISCHARGES	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
OTHER HOSPITALS OR CLINICS	4	19	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	
OCCUPATION CENTRE	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
RAILWAY STATIONS	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	29,148	5,316	3,248	1,902	95	286	426	1,837	219	138	599	5	

Plus :—

PATIENTS INVOLVED IN THE FOLLOWING CLASSIFICATION

STREET	COLLAPSE	HOME	SPORT	SCHOOL	CHILDREN AT PLAY	WORK	FACTORY	MIN
1,255	751	1,339	142	251	120	140	81	49

CONVEYED DURING 1955

Home	Warwick Central Hospital	Pump Room Leamington Spa	Old People's Homes	Children's Homes	Convalescent Homes	Railway Stations	Special Schools	Occupation Centre	Other Hospitals	Other Clinics	Work	The Towers Kenilworth	Kenilworth Convl. Home	TOTAL
53	276	2,603	5	—	39	65	57	8,439	1,108	221	—	—	—	50,152
268	27	—	65	2	1	7	30	1	413	1	—	38	39	32,559
666	9	—	7	1	41	14	—	—	91	4	—	1,158	397	5,294
952	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,156
811	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,833
63	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	217
51	—	—	1	—	4	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	355
22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	45
612	—	—	—	—	—	—	766	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,378
28	3	—	3	1	2	6	—	—	27	3	—	—	—	1,489
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	439
1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	101
88	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	596
17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	g	20
7	—	776	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	958
34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,134
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	12	31	—	—	—	937
115	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,417
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	64
576	315	3,379	93	5	87	97	862	8,440	1,658	261	0	1,196	436	111,154

ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY JOURNEYS

PUBLIC PLACE	MATERNITY	ILLNESS	RAILWAY ACCIDENTS	S.M.R.	TOTAL NO. JOURNEYS	TOTAL NO. PATIENTS
246	6	62	3	294	4,739	4,706

Total Number of Patients carried during 1955 — 115,860

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER CARE

Section 28

Developments under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act progressed as far as it was practicable during 1955. The routine services in regard to Tuberculosis, Venereal Disease, Health Education and the Provision of Nursing Equipment and Appliances have proceeded and developed within reasonable limits. The scheme for Meals for the Sick and Aged, which commenced in July, 1949, continues to function most satisfactorily and is referred to later on page 13.

Tuberculosis.

Domiciliary visitation of tuberculosis patients is a matter of prime importance in the department, as indeed are all those methods designed to reduce the incidence and mortality of this disease.

There were 5 full-time tuberculosis visitors available on the staff during the year and they continue to do excellent work, both on the district and in co-operating with the appropriate staff at the Chest Clinic (The Quadrant).

During the year under review the visitors made 475 visits to new cases and the total number of visits to all tuberculosis cases was 3,476 compared with 4,161 in 1954. The visitors were also responsible for 139 reports on housing circumstances of special cases.

In 1955 there was one call for a shelter to be issued by the department to a tuberculosis patient and at the end of the year four were in continuing use by patients within the city.

Sputum flasks and disinfectants, etc., were supplied to appropriate cases as also were beds (in some cases on loan), bedding and clothing etc., to the following extent:—

Number of cases involved	Number of Articles involved									
	Blankets	Pillows	Pillow Cases	Quilts	Beds	Mattresses	Sheets	Pyjamas	Bed Jackets	Dressing Gowns
16	9	26	18	2	15	16	14	3	2	1

The provision of free milk to tuberculous patients has continued during the year as shown in the following table:—

No. of persons receiving milk at 1st January,	
1955	307
No. of additional persons allowed milk during	
1955	225
Total number who received milk during 1955	532
No. of persons receiving milk at 31st	
December, 1955	335
Cost during year ended 31st December, 1955	£6,489 6s. 11d.

Every application for free milk is subject to enquiry by the tuberculosis visitors, and their reports are carefully scrutinised before milk is authorised. All applications are reconsidered quarterly.

In several cases second-hand furniture which has been given to the department for needy cases was appropriately distributed to patients.

Some of the cases applying for assistance were tuberculous patients in receipt of allowances from the National Assistance Board, and the Board accepted responsibility for the provision of bedding.

There was an increase in the number of cases occurring during the year where patients in sanatoria were discharged direct to flats provided by the Housing Committee. The Health Committee has, in such cases, assisted by providing beds and bedding, and the National Assistance Board has agreed to consider applications for assistance in purchasing other household equipment before the patient is discharged, provided the equipment cannot be obtained from the Housing Committee or from voluntary sources.

Venereal Diseases.

The Health Visitors employed by the Health Committee co-operate with the staff at the hospital treatment centre, and during 1955 were responsible for approximately 100 visits to defaulters from clinic treatment.

Cancer.

The health visitors also made approximately 40 follow-up visits to cancer sufferers during 1955. These were at the request of and by arrangement with the medical staff at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.

Meals for the Sick and Aged.

The Mobile Meals Service has been functioning for approximately $6\frac{1}{2}$ years and experience has shown that it continues adequately to justify itself as part of the social service and to prove its worth for the benefit of those physically unable to prepare their own meals and who have no relatives or friends to do it for them. Local medical practitioners make full use of the service for appropriate patients.

The service was designed to cater initially for a maximum of 100 persons, and from approximately 40 meals per day in the early stages of the scheme the number has increased, there being an average of 94 meals per day for the year ended 31st December, 1955. Since the inception of the service a gross total of 153,922 meals have been provided.

Meals obtained from the Catering Department continue to be provided on five days each week (Monday to Friday) from

the two specially adapted delivery vans which are manned by part-time personnel.

The service commenced with certain original and novel features which with certain modifications have now tended to become somewhat standardised throughout the country and make for easy handling of meals, which are carried in special (individual portion) insulated food carriers, each carrier holding five meals.

The following figures will give some indication of how the service functioned during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

Total number of meals supplied	23,895
Average number per day (<i>i.e.</i> , five days per week)	94
Cost of purchasing meals	£1,985 19s. 8d.
Contributions from recipients	£68 os. 11d.
Net cost	£1,917 18s. 9d.
Mileage run by two vans (approximate)	13,560

Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus.

The Health Department continues to supply on loan a fairly wide range of sick room appliances, which are augmented as the occasion demands. The equipment is available to applicants on hire at very reasonable charges, and in some cases free of charge.

A periodical check on all hirings is made especially in those cases where no charge is made. It is unfortunately true that some people are very careless with public property.

The following is a brief summary of items available from the Gulson Road Clinic :—

Air rings; back rests; bed pulleys; bed cages; bed pans; bed tables; bronchitis kettles; douche cans; dunlopillo mattresses; commodes; crutches; feeding cups; hospital beds; invalid chairs (indoor and outdoor); rubber sheets; spinal carriages; urine bottles; walking machines; walking sticks; water bottles.

Health Education.

Health education is deservedly attracting the attention of progressively minded people in latter years. Whereas in the early days of public health—some hundred years ago or more—general attention was slowly being directed towards the elimination of infectious diseases, squalor and the appalling living conditions of the masses in those days, and whereas from the commencement of the present century attention has been progressively directed towards furthering the personal health services, now the emphasis is upon health education and it is most essential that the public should become fully cognisant of the various health and welfare services available to them and how best they can achieve optimum physical and mental well-being whether in their own homes or at work.

Indeed, it is the case that very many people have not the slightest idea how best to occupy their leisure time—whether

they be in good health or in a state of chronic ill-health—and it is by timely advice that they can often come to a further measure of physical and mental happiness. One might well cite as an example the need for a proportion of domiciliary tuberculous cases to be given insight into the performance of simple and interesting tasks, and thereby a means of escaping from inactivity, boredom and depressive states. Such is called occupational therapy, but it is surely also an example of health education at its best. I, therefore, make no apologies for again stressing the need for the appointment of an officer into the Health Department who would devote his whole time towards furthering health education in this city and would be provided with the necessary means and equipment to do so.

All sections of my department are doing good health education work in their own particular ways, but their efforts in this direction are, perforce, spasmodic because of their other routine and onerous duties.

Health education is a matter of the greatest future importance and is deserving of concentrated attention.

An annual grant is made to the Central Council for Health Education, which in turn provides a wide range of health education propaganda material. Various lectures and informal talks (often pictorially illustrated with filmstrips) have been given to various organisations and groups during the year by different members of the departmental staff.

Convalescence.

The City Council has accepted financial responsibility for hospital patients needing essential recuperative convalescence following their treatment. Such cases are recommended by the consultant staff and passed to the hospital almoners for allocation to acceptable convalescent homes.

All applications are, of course, scrutinised by the Medical Officer of Health prior to recommendation to the Health Committee.

Of the applications submitted 103 were approved and accepted as a charge on the Health Committee. The 103 cases were accepted for periods of 2, 3 or 4 weeks' convalescence in various seaside homes, and of these 11 were granted an extension of the original period based on further medical representations.

The cost of the maintenance of these patients to the department during the current year was £1,336 2s. od.

In addition, in 1955 travelling facilities were provided by way of rail or bus fares at a cost of £435 9s. 11d.; 168 patients with 68 escorts were paid for; the Education Committee refunded the Health Committee to the extent of £190 5s. od. for the journeys of 55 school children with 65 escorts.

In accordance with the authority contained in Ministry of Health Circular 85, travelling facilities were made available to relatives for the purpose of visiting patients in hospitals outside

Coventry. 770 travel warrants were so issued to the relatives of 52 patients throughout the year; the cost amounted to £460 10s. 10d.

A comparison of the extent and the cost of these services in the last two years they have operated is as follows:—

	1955.	1954.
Applications for convalescence received ...	137	161
Applications for convalescence approved	137	160
Applications for extension	11	16
Cost of maintenance in convalescent homes	£1,336 2s. 0d.	£1,717 3s. 10d.
Travel facilities provided—No. of patients ..	168	125
Cost of such	£435 9s. 11d.	£464 3s. 5d.
Visiting facilities for relatives:—		
No. of patients visited	52	50
No. of travel vouchers granted	770	577
Cost	£460 10s. 10d.	£299 2s. 9d.

HOME HELPS SERVICE

Section 29

The staff engaged in this section of the department at 31st December, 1955, was as follows:—

- 1 Organiser
- 3 Assistants to the Organiser
- 2 Clerks
- 160 Home Helps

A summary of the work done during the year shows:—

The total number of cases attended	1,006
Maternity cases	303
Illness and chronic sickness	160
Infirm and aged	469
Tuberculosis	22
Other cases	52

The year's records show:—

1954 applicants still on books	337
Applications in 1955	996
Advance applications for 1956	85
Cases actually assisted	1,006
Applications (a) Withdrawn	110
(b) Refused to accept help	121
(c) not eligible	11
Applications still on books at 31.12.55	430
Total number of visits to homes by home helps	32,335

The pressure on this service has continued at a consistently high level during 1955, and it will be noted that the number of visits paid to homes by the helps increased to 32,335 as against a total of 14,221 in the previous year. To meet this the Health Committee has, on three occasions, authorised an increased number of helpers—particularly part-time personnel; and at the year end there were 160 employed, of whom 26 were working 44 hours per week, *i.e.*, full-time, and the remainder varying from 25 to 30 hours per week. Only by an increased supervision both of the helpers and of the demands from the homes in which they were working has it been possible to cope with the calls made on the service.

It has only been possible to cater for the heavy number of calls made upon the service throughout the year by meticulous checking of all requests and by a careful allocation of the available home helps. The demands placed by the public upon a service of this nature are understandably heavy, and, indeed, tend to increase year by year; this latter because of the high number of elderly householders requiring assistance and also the considerable number of patients—particularly women—who are discharged quite early from hospital following treatment. Moreover, the recent policy of the hospital authority, which has placed limitations upon the use of its available maternity beds, has inevitably thrown greater stress upon the home helps, and, also on the nursing services. It should be said, nevertheless, that this trend is quite welcome to us as a Health Department—not simply because of the comparative saving in hospital costs but also because of the implied confidence placed in our domiciliary services. As a corollary, however, it is quite necessary that adequate financial provision should be made to allow of sufficient home helps being engaged—otherwise the essential needs of patients would not be properly served.

A close liaison exists between the home helps, home nursing, health visiting and welfare services, and it is pleasing to note that, with the added assistance of the sanitary inspectorate, several outstandingly unhygienic homes have been initially cleansed thereby allowing of the home helps to carry on with their work more readily.

Towards the end of the year the first phase of a scheme of decentralisation came into operation, and two divisional offices—the one at Bell Green and the other in the Holbrooks area—were opened, and a proportionate number of home helps living in these areas were allocated to work therein as a permanent arrangement. As opportunity arises and necessary financial provision is made available it is hoped to create five home help divisions in the city area.

MENTAL HEALTH

Section 51

Administration—Committee.

The responsibility for the mental health work conducted in the City under this section of the Act is that of the Health Committee on which there are three women members and four co-opted representatives of outside bodies. This Committee meets monthly and reports on mental health work under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 51, are submitted to them.

Number and Qualifications of Staff.

The staff of the Mental Health Section consists of the Medical Officer of Health, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health (who is also the Director of the Mental Health Service), a Senior Authorised Officer and Petitioning Officer, three Duly Authorised Officers—of whom two are female. The Occupation Centre staff consists of a Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, two Assistants and one Trainee-Assistant.

All the authorised officers have attended the Mental Health Course arranged by the National Association for Mental Health in conjunction with the University of London and prior to their appointments as such, had previous experience either in the administration of the Mental Treatment and Mental Deficiency Acts or in the care of mentally sick persons of unsound mind.

Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees.

The liaison between this department, the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and the medical staff and psychiatric social workers at the Central Mental Hospital, Hatton, continues on a satisfactory basis. The helpfulness of the Regional Hospital Board in obtaining temporary institutional care for mentally defective children whose mothers have either themselves been admitted to hospital or because of some other domestic emergency, is a matter for which I offer my sincere thanks.

Supervision of patients on Trial from Mental Hospitals.

In most cases of absence on trial from mental hospitals (mainly from the Central Hospital, Hatton) supervision is carried out by the psychiatric social workers from the hospital, between whom and my staff there is mutual helpfulness.

On Licence from Mental Deficiency Institutions.

At the 31st December, 1955, 26 patients, including 18 males and 8 females, were on licence and were supervised by the authorised officers from this department on behalf of the parent mental deficiency institution. For a large proportion of these cases work was required and found and the majority have pro-

gressed satisfactorily in their jobs. During the year as a result of a successful period on licence from institutions in the community, 6 patients were discharged from the Order under the Mental Deficiency Act.

It might, further, be mentioned that apart from the supervision of licenced cases in the community, a liaison is maintained with the Medical Superintendents of parent mental deficiency institutions which permits the friendly supervision of patients on long leave of absence from those hospitals.

Duties Delegated to Voluntary Associations.

The local health authority fulfils all duties imposed upon it by Section 51 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and there is therefore no delegation.

Training of Staff.

As already stated the Duly Authorised Officers have taken the special course organised by the National Association for Mental Health, and each of them has had practical experience of their work for the past eight years in addition to previous experience either in the administration of the Mental Deficiency and Mental Treatment Acts or in the care of the mentally sick.

Work in the Community.

(a) Under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

During the year the Local Authority has continued to make available their clinic at Gulson Road for the purposes of outpatient electrical convulsive therapy, which is performed weekly by the medical staff from the Central Mental Hospital at Warwick, assisted by members of the Home Nursing Service. 418 persons (129 males and 289 females) had this form of treatment during 1955.

There were 7 mentally defective patients admitted to temporary care in accordance with the provisions of Ministry of Health Circular 5/52 during 1955.

(b) Under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

During the year 1955 the Authorised Officers were responsible for over 1,361 visits to patients under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts; and, in the same period, 626 mental treatment patients and 110 persons of unsound mind from the area of this Local Health Authority were admitted to mental hospitals for treatment.

The 1955 figures in respect of mental treatment show an increase of over 150 on those provided for the year 1954.

(c) Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.

(i) *Ascertainment and Supervision.* During the year 1955, 60 cases were referred from all sources (including those under

the provisions of the Education Act, 1944, Section 57(3) and (5), by the police and courts), of which number 37 now enjoy the supervision of the Authorised Officer. Most ascertainment examinations are carried out by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

The domiciliary visiting work in respect of 407 patients under the statutory supervision of the Local Health Authority has been continued. In the main, the close relationship between the patient, the parent and the officer has been maintained and this has resulted in "sheltered" employment being found for many patients who would not otherwise have been able to cope in open industry.

Further, prior to the issue of the statutory notification in accordance with the Education Act, 1944, Section 57(3), concerning ineducable children, the parent of the child is now interviewed by the Senior School Medical Officer immediately prior to the issuing of the statutory notice to the parent by the Local Education Authority, during which interview the essentials of care by the Local Health Authority's officers are explained to the parent. The Duly Authorised Officer is invited to attend the latter part of this interview, when it becomes possible for an introduction to be made to the parent—which makes much easier the initial enquiries which follow a 57(3) notification.

(ii) *Guardianship*. At the 31st December, 1955, there were 9 patients under guardianship, to the guardians of 4 of whom weekly financial grants, varying from 20s. od. to 30s. od., were paid towards the cost of their maintenance at home. In two cases it was found possible to find simple work for the patient, although the need for the continuance of the Guardianship Orders had been considered necessary.

(iii) *Institutional Cases*. It is considered pertinent to comment under this heading concerning the visiting of patients in hospitals for mental defectives, for whom vacancies are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and the Board of Control, at a considerable distance from their homes and particularly, so far as it applies to those parents of very restricted financial means.

It will be appreciated that the infrequency of visits inevitably results in hardship both on the parent anxious to see the son or daughter and equally on the patient, who unfortunately far too often has to forego the joy of a visitor.

Medical superintendents have stated that regular visits from relatives form an important part of in-patient therapy, and although they can make easier the way of relatives by issuing a certificate of expediency that a patient should be visited, it so often applies to but a small percentage of needy cases and only then from the point of view of benefit to the patient.

During the year 1955 the work done under the three relevant Acts was as follows:—

Lunacy Acts, 1890—1891.

Coventry patients	Central Mental Hospital, Warwick			
	Sec. 16	Sec. 11	Sec. 20	Total
Number of patients remaining in hospital on 31.12.54.	407	—	—	407
Number of admissions from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1955.	83	1	26	110
	490	1	26	517
Number of discharges, including deaths from 1st Jan., 1955 to 31st Dec., 1955.	73	1	25	99
Number of persons of unsound mind remaining in Central Hospital on 31.12.55.	417	0	1	418

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

During 1955 the facilities under this Act were utilised as follows :—

1.	No. of patients in Central Hospital, Warwick, under this Act on January 1st, 1955	Voluntary	170
		Temporary	1
2.	No. of patients admitted during 1955	Voluntary	616
		Temporary	10
3.	No. of patients discharged, transferred or died	Voluntary	591
		Temporary	8
4.	No. of patients remaining in hospital at 31st December, 1955	Voluntary	195
		Temporary	3

The continued increase in the proportion of voluntary to total Coventry patients admitted to the Central Hospital has reached the high figure of 83 per cent. for the year. The effect of this from the patients' point of view is that treatment is sought and accepted voluntarily, and there can be no doubt as to the much more beneficial results achieved with willing patients seeking to be cured.

The close liaison continues between the department and the respective staffs in the departments of the Magistrates' Clerk and the Probation Officer.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938.

Table shewing Classification of all Mental Defectives on Register
at 1st January, 1955, and how dealt with.

	In Institutions.			Under Guardianship.			Under supervision in own homes.			Grand Totals.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Feeble-minded ..	70	95	165	—	3	3	108	118	226	178	216	394
Imbeciles	39	49	88	4	2	6	73	89	162	116	140	256
Idiots	16	16	32	—	—	—	13	6	19	29	22	51
Moral Imbeciles ..	3	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5
TOTALS	128	162	290	4	5	9	194	213	407	326	380	706

Totals do not include 26—(18 males, 8 females) on licence from Institutions.

In addition to the above, seven patients were admitted to hospital for temporary treatment and care under the provisions of Circular 5/52 whereby parents or guardians having the domiciliary care of their mentally defective children can be afforded temporary relief from such harassing responsibility at times of family illness or other crises.

The number of registered mental defectives in the city (706) represents 2.6 per 1,000 of the population.

During the year 15 patients were admitted to a hospital for mental defectives and 3,947 domiciliary visits have been made by the Authorised Officers.

As suggested in Circular 28/54 of the Ministry of Health, certain outstanding incidents during the year are set out hereunder :—

1. On the 14th August, 1955, a 17 years old epileptic imbecile boy was admitted to a mental hospital as an emergency case vide Section 20 of the Lunacy Act for the second time in 18 months.

He had a history of violent and difficult behaviour, mostly directed towards his widowed mother, and had been on the waiting list for institution care since April, 1954. Efforts to secure either permanent or temporary care for him during that time had proved unsuccessful and to assist the mother he was admitted daily to the Occupation Centre. It was at weekends and during the Centre holidays that most difficulty was experienced with this boy, and the position worsened until on August 14th, 1955, following a violent outburst during which his mother sought the help of the police in controlling him, the action referred to above had to be taken pending further efforts being made to secure a vacancy for him in a mental deficiency hospital. This was not forthcoming until 31st August, 1955, when he was transferred to suitable

care, but seven days after his admission he lapsed into a status epilepticus in which he died on the 8th September, 1955.

2. A 57(5) notification—a youth of 19 years—was brought before the local court charged with stealing from his mother's home and also with breaking into and stealing from the gas meter there. He was described as a drifter unable to hold down any job for long. He was sent to an institution for mental defectives from which he escaped after two days: he was recaptured and returned by the police: he again escaped and is still at large.
3. A 39 years old mental defective—after being under home supervision for 20 years—was charged (not for the first time) in the local court with indecency, and by order of the court was sent to a mental deficiency hospital.
4. Another of our mental defectives—a youth of 19 years—was committed to the assizes on a charge of gross indecency and importuning, and by order of that court was sent to a mental deficiency hospital.
5. It is observed that there is an increasing number of parents who object and refuse to bring their children for medical ascertainment after the receipt of a 57(5) notification.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The City Council delegated its duties under this Act as follows :—

(1) To the Health Committee.

The provision of residential accommodation as required for the handicapped and others in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them; the provision of temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need thereof under circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, and in such other circumstances as the Council determine; and other remaining duties imposed by this section of the Act. (Section 21).

The welfare of the blind, deaf, dumb and handicapped (Sections 29 and 30).

The registration and inspection of disabled persons or old persons homes (Sections 37, 38 and 39).

The compulsory removal to suitable premises if need be of persons in need of care and attention (Section 47).

Provisions for the temporary protection of property of persons admitted to hospitals (Section 48).

Dealing with applications for the appointment of a Receiver of Income where persons are mentally incapable of managing their affairs and where there are no other suitable persons willing to undertake this duty (Section 49).

The provision of facilities for the burial or cremation of the dead when no suitable arrangements for disposal have been or are being made (Section 50).

(2) To the Pensioners Committee.

The responsibility for providing and maintaining residential accommodation for the aged. (Section 21).

The Welfare Sub-Department is organised to carry out a variety of duties for the Health Committee (some under the National Health Service Act and others under the National Assistance Act), and all necessary duties for the Pensioners Committee under Section 21 (1)a of the National Assistance Act. With the general development which continues in the health and social services there is a close relationship between the work of the health visitors, the home helps, the mental health service and the welfare service, and an active liaison assists all sections.

It has been suggested that a separate section of my report could be prepared specifically for the Pensioners Committee dealing with their field of responsibility (*i.e.*, Old Peoples Homes), and by a slight re-arrangement of the contents this has been achieved without any duplication of effort or of expense.

The Work of the Pensioners Committee during 1955.

Pensioners Officer : J. H. Ryner, F.C.C.S., F.I.S.W.

Deputy Pensioners Officer : R. N. Nicol, D.P.A., A.I.S.W.

HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE

(National Assistance Act, Sec. 21(1)(a)).

There are now seven Homes for Old People as follows :—

Name and Address.	Type of Resident.	No. of Residents. and Classification.		Total Beds occupied at 31st December, 1955.
		(a) Aged	(b) Handicapped	
Charterhouse, London Road, Coventry.	Men	24	6	30
Hawthorn Lodge, Jardine Crescent, Coventry.	Mixed	Men 17 Women 20 — 37	Men NIL Women 2 — 2	39
Moat House, Wilson's Lane, Exhall.	Men	27	11	38
Newlands House, Bennett's Road, Keresley.	Mixed	Men 14 Women 8 — 22	Men 1 Women 2 — 3	25
St. Paul's, 54/56, St. Paul's Road, Coventry.	Women	15	3	18
Stone House, 65, Birmingham Road, Coventry.	Women	25	4	29
Woodway Grange, Deedmore Road, Walsgrave, Coventry.	Men	19	5	24

Note i. It is intended to make special provision for the handicapped persons shewn herein, as soon as the opportunity arises.

The age distribution of residents of the Homes at the 31st December, 1955, is as shown hereunder:—

Age.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 60 years ...	8	8	16
60 to 64 years inclusive ...	7	4	11
65 to 69 „ ...	8	7	15
70 to 74 „ ...	27	17	44
75 to 79 „ ...	33	12	45
80 to 84 „ ...	26	18	44
85 to 89 „ ...	12	10	22
90 and over ...	3	3	6
	124	79	203

The age averages in the various Homes are as follows :—

Charterhouse	74.8 years
Hawthorn Lodge	79.4 years
Moat House	74.3 years
Newlands House	73.6 years
St. Paul's	71.6 years
Stone House	74.2 years
Woodway Grange	74.3 years
Average age of men	— 75.1 years
Average age of women	— 74.8 years
Average age of all residents	— 75.0 years

Admissions, and Discharges, etc. during Year ended 31st December, 1955.

	Men.	Women.
From own homes	37	21
From Hospital :		
(a) Residents re-admitted ...	24	14
(b) New cases	10	5
	—	—
Holiday cases	4	2
	—	—
	75	42
	—	—

Discharges, etc.

	Men.	Women.
To own homes	14	5
To hospital	34	26
Holiday cases	4	2
Died	15	4
	—	—
	67	37
	—	—

At the 31st December, 1955, certain residents, for whom the Pensioners Committee have financial responsibilities were maintained in the following areas :—

<i>By Local Authorities.</i>	Men.	Women.	Total.
Birmingham County Borough Council ...	—	1	1
Sunderland County Borough Council ...	1	—	1
Warwickshire County Council	1	—	1
Wolverhampton County Borough Council	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	3	1	4
	—	—	—

By Voluntary Bodies.

Wicksted Eventide Home, Whitchurch (Salvation Army)	2 men
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Accommodation Provided for other Local Authorities.

Derbyshire County Council	1 man (Moat House)
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Charterhouse, Moat House, St. Paul's and Stone House were all functioning as Homes for Old People when the National Assistance Act, 1948, came into operation on the 5th July, 1948. Newlands House, which was bought from the National Coal Board under a Compulsory Purchase Order in 1949, was the first Home to be acquired under the Act. It was originally intended that men only should be housed at this establishment but owing to the number of cases of women urgently requiring accommodation it was decided to make the Home a mixed one. There are eight single bedrooms at this establishment, and it also has ground floor accommodation for 12 residents.

Woodway Grange, formerly the Walsgrave Annexe, which was returned to the Council by the Regional Hospital Board in September, 1951, is functioning satisfactorily as a Home for elderly men. It is, however, intended to convert this Home into one for women when Wyken Lodge, the new Home under construction, is occupied.

The opening of Hawthorn Lodge in March, 1953, was an important step in the Council's scheme for the provision of residential accommodation for the old people of Coventry. This is the first of the existing seven Homes to be built specially for the purpose, and it provides accommodation for 40 residents plus staff. The Home has 11 ground floor beds and both sexes, including married couples, can be accommodated. It has many special features designed for the comfort and convenience of the residents, and has proved a very valuable addition to the residential accommodation provided.

The number of cases on the waiting list, confirmed as still being desirous of admission to the Homes, shews an increase of five men and ten women during the year under review. At the 31st December, 1955, the list stood at 56 men and 74 women. Additionally, there are still a number of cases in which there is some doubt as to whether the persons concerned still desire to be considered for admission, as and when suitable vacancies arise. There were 73 new cases admitted during the year (47 men and 26 women). Moreover, the increasing proportion of the infirm and less ambulant old people requiring residential accommodation, is becoming more apparent.

The past year has particularly emphasised the need for women's beds, a position which, to some extent, will be ameliorated when Wyken Lodge is opened and Woodway Grange is converted into a women's Home.

Work on Wyken Lodge is nearing completion. This Home will house 42 residents, and will provide 23 ground floor beds which are so urgently required. The residents from Woodway Grange will be transferred to this new establishment, thus enabling Woodway Grange to be used for the residents from St. Paul's, and freeing St. Paul's for return to the owner, since its continued use as a Home for Old People is not desirable.

During 1955 the necessary approvals of the Council and the consents of the Ministry of Health, to go forward with the schemes for new Homes in the Willenhall and Stoke Aldermoor Neighbourhood Units, were obtained. As a result, immediate steps were taken to obtain tenders for the building of these Homes. One gratifying feature is that the successful tenderer undertakes to build the Homes in 40 weeks, and since work will commence early in 1956, it is reasonable to assume that with Wyken Lodge, scheduled for completion in the spring, the three new Homes will be opened in 1956 or by early 1957 at the latest. Thus it appears that it will be possible to discontinue, in addition to St. Paul's, the use of Charterhouse as a Home for Old People much earlier than was ever contemplated. Since Charterhouse is not suitable for continued use as a Home this will be a good thing. The accommodation provided will then be increased from the present figure of 205 beds, with 51 of them on the ground floor, to 286 beds, with 119 of them on the ground floor, as indicated in the following statement.

<i>Establishment.</i>	<i>Present Provision</i>		<i>Provision on completion of Wyken Lodge and the Willenhall and Stoke Aldermoor projects.</i>	
	<i>Total No. of Beds.</i>	<i>Ground Floor Beds.</i>	<i>Total No. of Beds.</i>	<i>Ground Floor Beds.</i>
Charterhouse ...	30	4	—	—
Hawthorn Lodge ...	40	11	40	11
Moat House ...	40	18	40	18
Newlands House ...	26	12	26	12
Stone House ...	28	—	28	—
St. Paul's ...	17	—	—	—
Woodway Grange	24	6	26	9
<i>New projects at:</i>				
Bell Green (Wyken Lodge) ...	—	—	42	23
Willenhall ...	—	—	42	23
Stoke Aldermoor ...	—	—	42	23
	205	51	286	119
	—	—	—	—

The gain in accommodation will enable the waiting list to be reduced considerably and the gain in ground floor accommodation will be most valuable in coping with the more infirm and less ambulant type of case to which I have previously referred.

It is pleasing to place on record that major improvements have been effected at all of the existing Homes, which it is intended should continue to function as Homes for Old People, including the building of a sanitary annexe at Stone House, the linking up of the sanitary installation to the main sewer and the



Occupational Therapy at Newlands House

Reproduced by kind permission of the "Coventry Evening Telegraph".



Occupational Therapy at Moat House

Reproduced by kind permission of the "Coventry Evening Telegraph".

construction of a new access road at Woodway Grange, the adaptations and extensions at the Moat House (which now provides 18 beds in three ground floor dormitories, a new dining room with sun lounge attached, a new kitchen, stores, bathrooms, utility room, etc.) and extensions to the fuel store at Hawthorn Lodge.

Apart from these improvements any possible needs for further extensions and enhancements to existing homes will not be lost sight of. Moreover the desirability of providing more ground floor bedroom accommodation for the residents of any future Homes set up by the local authority—and also the possibility of providing lifts to the first floors—will be kept under review.

The high incidence of sickness throughout the whole of the Homes in December, 1954, subsided in January, 1955, but the spell of severe weather in the early part of 1955 had its effect on the health of the residents. Taking the year all round, however, their health, bearing in mind ages, infirmities and other disabilities, was reasonably good. Apart from the 19 residents who died in the Homes, 34 died in Hospital during the year, their average ages being 80.8 years. Fewer residents than in previous years had to be transferred to the Central Hospital, near Warwick, although some difficulty was experienced with the mild senile dementia cases, whose condition did not justify certification. There has, however, been some difficulty with residents manifesting anti-social tendencies, although I am pleased to say the main offender has now left.

The acute shortage of beds in this area for the chronic sick still persists. Nevertheless, we have the greatest measure of co-operation from the Hospital Authorities in relation to the admission of sick residents to Hospital, although in some instances, admissions, of necessity, have to be arranged on the basis of exchange. This shortage of beds, at times, imposes a heavy burden on the staffs of the Homes in relation to nursing, although in the circumstances the staffs cope admirably with the situation.

Industrial rehabilitation has been borne in mind, although there were no suitable individuals to recommend to the Rehabilitation Centre during the year.

Great attention still continues to be paid to occupational therapy, since it is in the residents' own interests that, subject to their mental and physical capacity, they should remain active. This, however, is an uphill task and too few of the residents respond. There was, nevertheless, a very interesting and successful exhibition of handicrafts at the Stone House in 1955.

An exclusive telephone line has now been obtained for Hawthorn Lodge, and there is good hope of one being available in the near future for Newlands House, the only Home which continues to have a shared service. Now that direct fire line telephones at each Home have been discontinued, it is very desirable for the Homes to have exclusive lines.

Every opportunity has been taken to improve the standard of furniture and equipment at the Homes. A Bendix washer has been obtained for Moat House, vacuum cleaners have been replaced at two Homes, a number of Hospital beds have been converted at three Homes and several new interior spring mattresses have been supplied to another Home.

The residents again participated in a week's holiday at Prestatyn Holiday Camp, North Wales, and benefited from their stay. A change of venue is contemplated for 1956, and tentative arrangements have already been made for the residents to stay at Southdean Holiday Centre, Middleton-on-Sea, Bognor Regis. The annual coach outing was again to Wickstead Park.

There was again an adequacy of entertainment provided at each of the Homes by way of concerts, film shows, etc. Apart from this entertainment, the residents participated in many other social functions away from the Homes. Two Homes ran a series of successful whist drives, the proceeds of which were devoted to the comfort of the residents and to giving each a gift on Christmas Day.

A large number of gifts and some generous donations were received, for which our grateful thanks are due to the thoughtful donors.

Religious ministrations at most of the Homes have been satisfactory, although one or two of the Honorary Chaplains have not been able to visit regularly. Details of the arrangements (approved by the Pensioners Committee), whereby the Free Church Federal Council will nominate a Free Church Minister to care for the spiritual needs of the Free Church residents of each Home, are still awaited. The Ministers of some of the Churches still continue to provide transport to enable a certain number of frail ambulant residents to attend Church, and this is greatly appreciated.

Two Matrons attended Refresher Courses for Wardens and Matrons of Old People's Homes, and several members of the staff of the Homes attended a One Day Conference for Wardens and Matrons of Old People's Homes. The staffing position at the Homes has been reasonably good throughout 1955, and there have been no changes in the senior staff.

Again I would like to express my appreciation of the work carried out by the staffs of the various Homes, which in no small measure contributed to their smooth running.

**RETURN OF PERSONS RESIDENT IN DECEMBER, 1955, IN ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED UNDER
PART III OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**

TABLE "A"—RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION. Section 21 (1) (a).

[illegible]

OTHER WELFARE PROVISIONS

(Health Committee)

(Section 21((1)(b))

Temporary accommodation provided by the Health Committee is by way of a converted industrial hostel block, viz. Block Z.3 of the former Baginton Fields Hostel, and two converted wards at the former London Road Institution. This accommodation comprises :—

Baginton Fields Hostel	—	2 three-bedroom units 4 two-bedroom units 1 one-bedroom unit
London Road Establishment	—	4 two-bedroom flatlets 2 one-bedroom flatlets

There is still acute pressure on the accommodation provided and during one part of the year it was necessary to refuse some applications and refer them to the Children's Department, to secure the well being of the children involved. Thus the necessity of the allocation of accommodation on a room basis, instead of on a unit basis as originally contemplated, has continued. The number of cases housed on the 31st December, 1955, are set out hereunder.

Establishment	Cases in which Council had a statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation			Cases in which Council had a permissive power to provide temporary accommodation			Totals		
	W.	Ch.	Fams.	W.	Ch.	Fams.	W.	Ch.	Fams.
Block Z3, Baginton Fields Hostel ..	4	9	4	9	20	9	13	29	13
Flats, 11 London Road	4	9	4	2	7	2	6	16	6
TOTALS	8	18	8	11	27	11	19	45	19

The foregoing statistics indicate that a degree of overcrowding in Block Z.3, Baginton Fields Hostel still persists, although this is not as acute as was the case last year.

The following summary will help to show the extent of the problem of dealing with temporary accommodation cases :—

Summary of cases dealt with since the National Assistance Act, 1948, came into operation on the 5th July, 1948.

Period	Cases in which Council had a statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation				Cases in which Council had a permissive power to provide temporary accommodation				Total			
	M.	W.	Ch.	Fams.	M.	W.	Ch.	Fams.	M.	W.	Ch.	Fams.
4th July, 1948, to 31st Dec., 1948 ..	1	1	1	1	3	10	21	10	4	11	22	11
1st Jan., 1949, to 31st Dec., 1949 ..	9	26	33	26	21	56	87	56	30	82	120	82
1st Jan., 1950, to 31st Dec., 1950 ..	5	17	27	17	1	32	46	32	6	49	73	49
1st Jan., 1951, to 31st Dec., 1951 ..	—	31	56	31	—	17	32	17	—	48	88	48
1st Jan., 1952, to 31st Dec., 1952 ..	—	52	95	52	—	12	28	12	—	64	123	64
1st Jan., 1953, to 31st Dec., 1953 ..	—	38	72	38	—	16	31	16	—	54	103	54
1st Jan., 1954, to 31st Dec., 1954 ..	—	39	75	39	—	17	37	17	—	56	112	56
1st Jan., 1955, to 31st Dec., 1955	—	34	66	34	—	30	77	30	—	64	143	64
TOTALS	15	238	425	238	25	190	359	190	40	428	784	428

NOTE 1 The figures submitted for the year ended 31st December, 1955, do not include 7 children born after the admission of their mothers to Part III Accommodation.

NOTE 2 Of the total number of families accommodated the Housing Committee has rehoused the following :

1949—18 families	1952—61 families
1950—50 families	1953—36 families
1951—15 families	1954—43 families
1955—56 families	

NOTE 3 In 1955 11 families were able to find accommodation for themselves.

The tentative proposal to transfer Block Z.3 to the Education Committee and to provide accommodation in substitution at the Sherbourne Industrial Hostel did not materialise, nor did the later proposal to provide alternative temporary accommodation at the Wyken Industrial Hostel. Now the question of providing

accommodation by way of three blocks of sub-standard housing units on the temporary housing site at Baginton Fields Hostel is under consideration. Should this materialise, the temporary accommodation at London Road will be transferred to the Housing Committee. If the three blocks do, in due course, become available, it might well afford the opportunity to provide more units suitable to the needs of temporary accommodation cases, as well as additional accommodation which is so badly needed.

The danger of contagious and infectious diseases spreading rapidly under existing conditions is very real, and while good fortune has so far been with us, insofar as serious inter-current illness and post infective complications are concerned, the position at Block Z.3, despite a slight reduction in the number of persons housed there, is not without its anxieties.

RETURN OF PERSONS RESIDENT IN DECEMBER, 1955, IN ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED UNDER
PART III OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

TABLE "B"—TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

Section 21 (1) (b).

Description of persons (1)	PERSONS RESIDING IN										No. of persons included in col. 2 to 6 for whose maintenance other local authorities are responsible (7)		No. of persons (not included in cols. 2 to 6) accommodated by other local authorities for whose mainten- ance the Council are responsible (8)	
	Former Workhouses				Other premises managed by the Council (4)		Accommoda- tion provided on behalf of the Council by voluntary organisations (5)		Total (cols. 2-5) (6)					
	Owned by the Council (2)		Vested in the Minister as hospitals (3)											
	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W		
1. Persons over 16 :														
(a) Evicted														
(b) Others														
Total														
2. Children accompanied by persons over 16 :														
(a) Evicted														
(b) Others														
Total														
GRAND TOTAL														

REGISTRATION OF DISABLED AND OLD PERSONS' HOMES

(Sections 37 to 40)

There are on the register four homes—two for the elderly and the other two for disabled (blind) men and women. All four premises have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

Officially provided Homes for children or for the elderly are exempt from registration.

A summary of the Official Register is shown hereunder.

	Homes first registered during 1955		Registrations refused or cancelled during 1955		Homes on the register on 1st January, 1956	
	Number of Homes	Beds	Number of Homes	Beds	Number of Homes	Beds
Homes for Old Persons	1	20	Nil	Nil	2	29
Homes for Disabled Persons	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	30
Homes for Old Persons and Disabled Persons	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	1	20	Nil	Nil	4	59

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS NEEDING CARE AND ATTENTION

(Section 47)

During 1955 it was not necessary to invoke Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to secure the compulsory removal to suitable premises of any person needing care and attention. There were, however, three cases where aged persons urgently required care and attention but who, in the first instance, refused to avail themselves of the facilities offered to them. Action under Section 47 of the Act was being considered, but in each case the person eventually agreed voluntarily to enter suitable premises.

WELFARE SERVICES: HANDICAPPED PERSONS (OTHER THAN THE BLIND)

(Section 29 and 30)

Considerable progress has been made during the year in dealing with the Welfare of Handicapped Persons (Other than the Blind).

The appointment of an Assistant Welfare Officer for Handicapped Persons on the 23rd August, 1955, has been fully justified and has assisted considerably in—

- (a) Routine visiting and maintaining contact with handicapped persons to a greater extent than had previously been possible.
- (b) Enabling further investigations to be made, resulting in an increase of 46 in the total number of persons registered with the Department.

On the 31st December, 1955, there was a total of 191 persons registered in accordance with Sections 29 and 30 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. Also during the year ten names were removed from the register due to seven deaths and three removals of residence.

The following is a summary of the prescribed register of handicapped persons (General Classes) as at 31st December, 1955:—

Description	Children under age 16		Persons aged 16—64		Persons aged 65 and over		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Register of Handicapped Persons (Deaf)	14	24	87	70	6	9	210
Register of Handicapped Persons (Hard of Hearing)	22	12	—	—	—	—	34
Register of Handicapped Persons (General Classes)	—	—	90	76	13	12	191

An analysis of the handicapped cases is shewn hereunder :—

* Medical Research Council Code.										† Suitability as to employment Ministry of Health Circular 32/51.
A/E	F	G	H/L	Q/T	V	U/W	X	Y	Z	
2		6	4	6	23			3		A 44
1	1	2	1		9					B 14
	3	1		1	3					C 8
9	28	4	4	9	62	1	6	2		D 125
										E
12	32	13	9	16	97	1	6	5		Total 191

*A/E Amputation.

F Arthritis and rheumatism.

G Congenital malformations and deformities.

H/L Diseases of the digestive and genito-urinary systems, heart or circulatory system; respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and skin.

Q/T Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper/lower limbs and spine.

V Organic nervous diseases.

U/W Neurosis.

X Tuberculosis (respiratory).

Y Tuberculosis (non-respiratory).

Z Diseases and injuries not specified above.

†A Handicapped persons (other than children) who though possibly needing training are capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions.

B Handicapped persons (other than children) who are mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops.

C Handicapped persons (other than children) who are capable of work at home.

D Handicapped persons (other than children) not available for work.

E Handicapped persons who are children under the age of 16 years.

Throughout the year a total of approximately 1,300 visits have been made to, or in connection with handicapped persons, and immediate problems have been dealt with wherever possible.

Assistance to handicapped persons has been afforded in the following :—

Employment, training, rehabilitation, housing, residential accommodation, provision of gift clothing, furniture, etc., outings, arranging holidays, personal advice, etc.

Great care is taken to ensure that handicapped persons are aware of, and avail themselves of both the medical and social services to which they are entitled. In this connection, particular emphasis has been placed on the various appliances, aids, etc., *i.e.*, power and hand propelled invalid carriages, push chairs, crutches, etc., available from the Ministry of Health.

Wherever necessary cases have been referred to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance and the National Assistance Board for special or specific services, and it is gratifying to note that in the majority of these cases it has been possible to obtain real material benefit. It is with pleasure I report upon the great measure of co-operation which exists between the Department and the various Government Departments.

Assistance has been given by various national and local voluntary agencies with very gratifying results.

The value of the service is well illustrated by the number of handicapped persons who make constant calls upon the Department. This appears to indicate their confidence in the Authority's scheme for their welfare.

Cerebral Palsy.

In co-operation with the Coventry and District Spastic Society, further steps have been taken to obtain an accurate classification of all known cerebral palsy sufferers resident in the City. It is interesting to note that a further 18 cases have been registered during the past year, bringing the total of known cases in the City to 98. Their classification is shown hereunder :—

Age Group	Baginton Fields Special School	Normal School	Sec. Selective School	No School	Burns Road Occupat- ional Centre	Dom. Sup. by Mental Health Section	Open Employment	Sheltered Employment	Unemployed	Ponds Homes for Young Spastics	St. Margaret's	Highcroft Hall	Keresley Manor	Town Thorns	Exhall Grange	David Lewis Epileptic Colony	Royal Midland Counties Home	Training	Totals
0-5	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	8
5-7	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
7-11	16	2	...	1	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
11-15	6	5*	1	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	21
15-18	3	1	...	...	2	1	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
18-21	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	12
21-31	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	7
31-41	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5
41-51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	30	8	1	6	6	14	9	3	6	2	5	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	98

* Of these eight cases, two attend County Primary Schools, five attend Secondary Modern Schools and one attends a Selective Secondary School.

Despite the increase in the number of cases registered, investigations still shew that at some time or other all had been medically assessed, and that wherever possible, action had been or is being taken to meet the needs of this special group.

It is worthy of note that this Authority was successful in securing the admission of two cases to the Home for Young Adult Spastics, "Ponds", Beaconsfield, Bucks., the first of its kind to be opened in this country by the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics. The need for suitable residential accommodation for the cerebral palsied is becoming manifest, and it is hoped that with the opening of further homes of this type, it will be possible to cater for other Coventry cases.

Epilepsy.

Further investigations, in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and National Service, have resulted in the ascertaining of many more cases of epilepsy than were registered at the end of 1954, but I still feel it is not yet possible to give any reliable figures as to the real incidence of epilepsy within the City.

The cases known to the Department are shewn in the following table :—

Accommodated	Male	Female	Totals
Epileptic Colony	7	2	9
At home and registered with the Ministry of Labour for employment ...	*45	*20	*65
At home and not available for employment	3	4	7
Other Residential Accommodation	1		1
Totals ..	56	26	82

* These figures, the latest available, indicate the position as at the 30th April, 1955. All other figures relate to the 31st December, 1955.

Suitable cases have been sent to Epileptic Colonies.

The employment of epileptics is still a problem but endeavours are made, wherever the circumstances warrant it, to place them in suitable employment.

General.

Although there is still much to be done, it is fair to say that some considerable progress has been made in catering for the needs of the City's handicapped.

The scope of Welfare work in the City is increasing daily, and the appointment of the assistant Welfare Officer for the Handicapped has had much to do with the progress made.

The local authority's approved scheme under Sections 29 and 30 of the National Assistance Act makes provision for a Residential Home for the Handicapped, and the Health Committee have this factor constantly in mind in their yearly consideration of departmental capital building projects.

Deaf and Dumb.

In relation to the deaf and dumb, it was decided that the Council should collaborate in the provision of welfare services with the Warwickshire County Council and that such services should be provided through the agency of the Warwickshire Deaf and Dumb Society. Negotiations in regard to this have taken place and a mutually acceptable scheme, involving financial assistance from the Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council, was approved. Representatives nominated by the Coventry City Council to the joint controlling committee included three Health Committee members and the Medical Officer of Health. Certain administrative arrangements are being dealt with by the respective local authorities.

In addition a monetary grant of £25 was made by the L.A. to help the Association send a few older deaf persons for a seaside holiday.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

The fourth report of the Policy Advisory Committee, adopted by the Council, suggested that the appropriate Committees consider what more could be done in the nature of "preventive" welfare work to improve the conditions of old people and lessen the demand for accommodation in old people's homes. The suggestion has had very careful consideration, and as a result it has been recommended that an additional Assistant Welfare Officer be appointed. If this appointment is approved, this Officer will carry out the duties of organiser and act as a medium of direct liaison between the appropriate voluntary bodies concerned with the welfare of old people, and the Department. It thus would be possible to organise a visiting service on a sound basis. This is of paramount importance, since it is mainly through visitation that the needs of old people are brought to light. The appropriate services could then be invoked to mitigate or to ameliorate the conditions under which the old people are living, and provide for far greater range of people than is at present the case. Apart from this, visitation in itself fulfils a very useful purpose. Many old people are worried by a sense of loneliness, which in most instances can be dispelled by regular visitation.

The Department has given active help in the formation of the "Golden Years" Club for Old People to be opened in 1956. This Club, when opened, will be the only one in the City which will be in daily use for this purpose.

As it has not been possible, despite strong representations to the Ministry of Health, to provide officially a chiropody service for old people, the Department is now giving active assistance in an endeavour to inaugurate a chiropody scheme from voluntary funds. In this connection, application is being made to the National Corporation for the Care of Old People, for a grant from the King George Sixth Memorial Fund.

MISCELLANEOUS WELFARE SERVICES

Apart from the statutory duties imposed upon the Council in relation to handicapped persons, assistance and advice have been given in social problems, particularly where aged, infirm and sick have been concerned: and the staff have generally interested themselves in the welfare of the aged.

Hospital admissions have been arranged, claims for pensions, supplementary pensions, etc., have been prepared for those unable themselves to complete the necessary forms; action has been taken to safeguard property of persons admitted to hospital; furniture has been transported for Part III National Assistance Act accommodation cases as well as for hospital cases. Several applications have been made to the Court of Protection for the appointment of a Receiver to manage the affairs of patients unable to do so for themselves.

Arrangements have been made with the National Assistance Board to afford assistance to necessitous cases whose straitened circumstances have been brought to light by the department and employment has also been found for a number of persons.

The following figures relating to cases referred to the department by letter or telephone, as distinct from personal applications and those for temporary accommodation, visited and investigated during the period 1st January, 1955, to 31st December, 1955, (an increase of approximately $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. on the figures for 1954) will give some indication as to the nature of the work undertaken :—

Subject of Visits	Admissions to Homes	Admissions to Hospital	Mobile Meals	General Welfare	Others	Total	
						Visits	Cases
Number of Visits made	157	57	206	336	58	814	605

I am greatly indebted to my senior staff in the general welfare section of the department for their enthusiasm in connection with the care of aged persons and handicapped persons (other than the blind) and for much helpful information contained in the foregoing pages.

WELFARE SERVICES—BLIND PERSONS

Section 29

The care and welfare of blind persons comes within the scope of Section 29 of the National Assistance Act and of the Council's approved scheme. The staff designated for this work in the Health Department include two home teachers of the blind.

The teachers continue to be occupied in training those blind persons who can benefit from their teaching, and this includes Braille, Moon, and also simple handicrafts. They also give all possible assistance in the welfare of the blind and their advice and guidance is much in demand.

Our blind friends still have their regular weekly meeting at the Welfare Centre, Gulson Road, and they much look forward to this. The ladies are occupied in handicrafts and discussions, and indeed upon household problems with which they have to contend from week to week; while the men enjoy light recreation such as domino matches. The annual outing towards which all had contributed took place at Aberystwyth, and a half day tour to the Chateau Impney near Droitwich, was also arranged in September. Both occasions gave much pleasure to the blind persons concerned.

During the year a motor coach outing to Stourport was arranged through the Health Committee for all blind persons in the city. The parties had a most enjoyable tea at Lickhill Manor, which was followed by a trip on the river. Blind persons were accompanied by their guides and a total of 420 took advantage of the much appreciated outing.

A Christmas party also arranged through the Health Committee was held at the Hotel Leofric and 450 blind and their guides attended. The entertainment was organised by Miss Kitty Eames and members of the Blue Triangle Operatic Society; their delightful singing and indeed their voluntary services were greatly appreciated by all.

Financial assistance continues to be rendered to those blind persons who are in need of it through the National Assistance Board; this has been the arrangement since 5th July, 1948.

The register of blind persons as at December, 1955, gives the following details of all blind persons registered in the city :—

Age Groupings of Registered Blind Persons

AGE PERIOD .	M	F	TOTAL
0—1	0	0	0
1—5	3	4	7
5—16	7	5	12
16—21	2	3	5
21—40	24	13	37
40—50	22	16	38
50—65	42	34	76
65—70	23	26	49
70 & over	105	176	281
Unknown	—	—	—
TOTAL	228	277	505

Incidence of Blindness Ages at which Blindness occurred.

AGE PERIOD	M.	F.	TOTAL
0—1	22	17	39
1—5	1	4	5
5—10	5	5	10
10—20	9	7	16
20—30	18	10	28
30—40	11	7	18
40—50	26	17	43
50—60	30	28	58
60—70	42	61	103
70 & over	64	120	184
Unknown	0	1	1
TOTAL	228	277	505

There are 11 blind home workers engaged in the city under the scheme organised by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. These are employed in various trades and all receive a standard augmentation of wages on an agreed scale.

THE PARTIALLY SIGHTED

The register of partially sighted in the city at December 31st, 1955, shows the following details :—

I. Partially Sighted in Age Groups.

Age Groups	0-1	2-4	5-15	16-20	21-49	50-64	65+	TOTAL
Males	0	1	20	1	7	1	9	39
Females	0	0	15	0	5	4	11	35

II. Partially Sighted in Ages at which Handicap Occurred.

Age Groups	0-1	2-4	5-15	16-20	21-49	50-64	65+	TOTAL
Males	26	0	0	1	3	2	7	39
Females	15	2	2	0	4	4	8	35

During the year 57 persons have been notified, 45 as blind and 12 as partially sighted and an enquiry into the causes of the disability is summarised in the following table.

Enquiry into causation of Blindness or Partial Blindness.

	Cause of Disability				
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others	Totals
(i) No. of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F of Form B.D.8 recommends :	22	9	1	25	57
(a) No treatment ..	12	4	1	15	32
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical) ...	10	5	0	10	25
(ii) No. of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow up action have received treatment ...	10	5	0	10	25

B. Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

- (i) Total number of cases notified during the year ... Nil
- (ii) Number of cases in which :
- (a) Vision was affected Nil

No cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were referred for inclusion on the registers either as blind or partially sighted.

The enthusiasm of the blind home teachers in their day to day work is greatly appreciated by the blind citizens, and I am much impressed by the care and attention which they bring to their work.

BURIALS**Section 50**

During the year the Health Department accepted responsibility for the burial of the bodies of 18 persons who died or were found dead and in regard to whom no other suitable arrangements had been made.

HOSPITALS

The hospitals and annexes in the city under the control of the Hospital Management Committee (Group 20) of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board remain as follows :—

The Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital
 Gulson Hospital
 Whitley Hospital
 Paybody Orthopædic Home
 Allesley Hall Annexe

The Board issues its own printed report.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to the Water Engineer and Manager for the following information as to the City's water supply :—

Houses with water supply laid on	80,445
Houses supplied by standpipe or similar means ...	1,178
Population supplied direct	275,335
Population obtaining mains supply by stand-pipe or other means (not direct)	4,123
Total population supplied ...	279,458

The supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality for all essential purposes.

The appendix given below contains information as to the frequency of bacteriological and chemical examinations of water from the various sources of supply.

The waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

No special action has been necessary to meet any contamination of underground sources of supply. Chlorinating equipment is installed at all Pumping Stations for emergency use.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES

**Bacteriological
Examinations**

<i>Samples from</i>	<i>Frequency of Examination</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>
All underground supplies	Twice weekly	Undertaking's own Laboratory
	Fortnightly	Coventry Public Health Laboratory
Strensham	Treated water Daily	Undertaking's own Laboratory
	All stages weekly including inlet and outlet—Bredon Reservoir Delivery at Meriden Twice weekly	
Distribution System. Existing mains New & repaired mains.	6 samples each week	Undertaking's own Laboratory
	As required	

**Chemical
Examinations**

All underground supplies	Fortnightly	Coventry Corporation Laboratory and Undertakings Own Laboratory
	Full chemical and mineral periodically	Undertaking's own Laboratory
Strensham	<i>Daily</i> Treated water all stages — partial chemical analysis	Undertaking's own Laboratory
	<i>Weekly</i> Full analysis sampled at Meriden	Undertaking's own Laboratory
	Partial chemical Fortnightly sampled at Meriden	As for Underground supplies

COVENTRY CREMATORIUM

The Canley Crematorium, which is owned and operated by the Parks and Cemeteries Department of the Corporation, continued efficiently to fulfil its role in the hygienic disposal of the dead. The Medical Officer of Health as Medical Referee has the assistance of the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and one of his senior Medical Officers as Deputy Medical Referees.

The figures for 1955, which show an increase over preceding years, were as follows :—

	1955.	1954.	1953.	1952.
Total cremations	1,563	1,394	1,250	1,105
Coventry residents	845	678	702	658
Residents of other areas ...	718	716	548	447

It is again the fact that for 1955 the number of cremations taking place at the Coventry Crematorium outnumbered (as in 1954) the number of burials occurring in the city.

STAFF CHANGES

Dr. R. J. Dodds, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health, who was appointed in May, 1950, resigned on 2nd October, 1955, and Dr. J. Ardley was appointed to succeed him on 19th September, 1955; he commenced his duties on 12th December, 1955.

1 Meat Inspector, 1 Sanitary Inspector, 4 Health Visitors, 1 Part-time Tuberculosis Visitor, 3 Municipal Midwives, 1 Assistant Superintendent, Home Nursing, and 1 Deputy Superintendent, Occupation Centre, left the service of the department.

1 Meat Inspector, 1 Sanitary Inspector, 5 Health Visitors, 1 Tuberculosis Visitor, 8 School Health Nurses (with temporary dispensation to undertake certain Health Visitor's duties), 3 Municipal Midwives, 1 Assistant Superintendent, Home Nursing and 2 Occupation Centre Assistants were appointed during the year.

A number of changes took place in the clerical staff, and one male Junior Clerk was called up for national service.

Several changes were also made in the Day Nursery and Home Nursing staffs.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

R. WILLIAMS, O.B.E., D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, E. A. Johnson.

Senior Food and Drugs Inspector, H. Ellis.

Senior Meat Inspector, L. Vivian.

Divisional Inspector (South), T. E. Willmott.

Divisional Inspector (North), D. C. Norcliffe.

Senior Housing Inspector, R. D. Hayne.

Special comments, on certain aspects of the work, prepared in conjunction with the senior inspectors, including :—

1. General Sanitation.
2. Housing.
4. Meat, Milk and Other Foods.
4. Atmospheric Pollution.
5. Factories Inspection, and
6. Rodent Destruction.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Environmental sanitation has been defined by the Expert Committee of the World Health Organisation as “the control of all those factors in man’s physical environment which exercises or may exercise a deleterious affect on his physical, mental or social well being”. By the very nature of its international composition a Committee of this kind can be expected to submit reports free of all group bias and not unduly influenced by the existing order of things in any one country. It is therefore of some significance to find that the special field of environmental sanitation ranks, on a world wide basis, as a major health assignment. The terms of reference cover a wide field, and it is in these circumstances all the more regrettable that sanitary inspector staffs are so far below establishment strength, with the result that much that should be done remains undone. In Coventry at the present time the sanitary inspectorate is struggling to maintain a level of service which demands far more inspector-man-hours than can be provided. It was possible by dint of overtime and other expedients to retain the level achieved last year, but this is by no means providing the citizens of Coventry with the full service to which they are entitled. Despite our strenuous efforts it was simply impossible to give the effective and adequate cover envisaged by the definition of the duties set out above.

At a time when legislative tools, long desired, are at last within reach, the inspectorate has the frustrating experience of being unable to employ them fully through lack of numbers.

Planning towards the time when an improvement in inspector strength will be possible, a re-organisation of supervisory and inspectorial responsibilities was undertaken. This included the

appointment of two Divisional Sanitary Inspectors. The city is for this purpose divided into two and each of the Divisional Inspectors will be responsible for the direct supervision of the District Inspectors in his half of the city. The increase in housing activity necessitated the promotion of the Housing Inspector to Senior Housing Inspector for this particular aspect of the work. He is responsible, of course, for the supervision of the work done by District Inspectors in respect of slum clearance programmes and the individual demolition and repair work carried out under the Housing Acts.

Complaints this year totalled 6,752, an increase of 640 on the previous year. The shortage of inspectors is reflected in the growing number of complaints; over the past three years there has been an increase of 1,640, which is understandable when it is realised that unless the so-called routine surveys and inspections are carried out, conditions must arise which result in complaints being made. Unfortunately, it is not always appreciated that these inspections and surveys of routine character are of vital importance to the maintenance of environmental health. When Coventry was O & M'd by a team from the Treasury Department of Her Majesty's Government these investigators made considerable emphasis on the vital nature of the protective and preventive work accomplished by "routine" duties. The majority of Chief Inspectors look forward to the day when the whole field of environmental endeavour will be adequately covered with sufficient inspectors.

DRAINAGE AND PAVEMENT.

	Dec. 1954.	Dec. 1955.
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	975	1,010
Drains provided with efficient traps	5	9
New Drains, inspection and intercepting chambers provided	234	11
Drains relaid or repaired	94	77
Soil pipes and ventilating shafts improved or repaired	29	50
Rain water pipes disconnected from the sewer	—	—
Courts and back yards paved and repaired	27	6
Sink drains disconnected from the sewer	2	7

DWELLINGS.

Floors of dwellings relaid or repaired	149	142
Dilapidated walls and ceilings repaired	225	156
Damp walls—Damp courses inserted	9	53
Repointed or cement rendered	196	232
Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	282	406
Dangerous stairs repaired	25	10
Additional windows provided and others repaired and made to open	302	239
Defective guttering repaired	372	304
Houses provided with food stores	5	2
Existing pantries provided with external ventilation	—	—
Sculleries provided or reconstructed or enlarged ...	—	2
Wash houses provided	—	—
New waste pipes provided and others repaired	—	—
New sinks provided	1	20
Foul cellars cleansed and defects in drains remedied	—	—
Houses limewashed and cleansed	—	—
Houses cleansed after infectious disease	—	—
Verminous houses and furniture disinfested	172	212
Additional water closets provided	186	25
Water closets reconstructed	12	11
Water closets repaired and limewashed	22	19
Water closets provided with new pedestals	134	129
Water closet pans replaced with pedestals	—	—
Defective joints in flush pipes repaired	75	127
Foul water closet basins and traps cleansed	3	7
Defective water closet cisterns repaired	247	163
New flushing cisterns provided	13	33
Urinals cleansed and reconstructed	—	—
Urinals abolished	—	—

PRIVIES, CESSPOOLS, ASHPITS AND DUSTBINS.

Cesspools abolished	6	4
Offensive privies or pail closets converted into water closets	—	1
Offensive privies or pail closets abolished	5	4
New water closets erected in place of above	5	6
Houses provided with sanitary dustbins	149	186

VARIOUS.

Nuisances from animals kept abated	10	1
Offensive accumulations removed	92	202
Courts and backyards cleansed by tenants	3	—
Gipsy tents and caravans removed	54	1
Dairies reconstructed or improved	—	—
Water supply—additional taps provided	4	5
Polluted wells dispensed with	—	—
Town water supplied in place of well water	1	—
Offensive ditches cleansed	7	10
Miscellaneous	516	583
Improvements effected at factories	22	107
Improvements effected at shops and food premises ...	69	1

4,767

4,678

Summary of Inspectors' Work

IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUPPRESSION OF NUISANCES FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Totals.
No. of drains opened and cleansed from obstruction...	1690	1913	1541	1380	1632	1407	977	1139	975	1010	13,664
drains provided with efficient traps ...	25	30	77	45	41	46	18	1	5	9	279
new drains provided to premises ...	72	45	113	93	70	97	54	175	234	77	1,030
sink drains disconnected from the sewer ...	3	3	1	1	2	12	8	1	2	7	40
floors and walls of houses repaired ...	1332	1525	1368	1392	1059	1068	912	810	579	583	10,628
new sinks provided and others repaired ...	136	47	77	54	31	52	40	6	—	20	463
roofs of houses repaired and made weatherproof ...	655	895	752	574	472	468	390	434	282	406	5,328
defective spouts repaired ...	311	424	427	385	295	389	390	535	372	304	3,832
houses limewashed and cleansed ...	20	23	18	19	2	7	7	—	—	—	96
houses cleansed after infectious disease ...	—	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	11
offensive privies or pail closets converted into water closets ...	12	15	40	17	33	31	17	38	—	1	204
offensive privies or pail closets abolished ...	12	3	9	17	13	14	8	28	5	4	113
new water closets erected in place of above ...	—	1	9	20	13	14	8	27	5	6	103
additional new water closets provided ...	12	2	18	33	15	25	29	59	186	25	404
water closets provided with new cisterns ...	44	76	88	84	66	81	70	15	13	33	570
" " " pedestal pans ...	112	368	358	222	166	181	136	109	134	129	1,915
foul water closet drains cleansed ...	27	19	26	19	11	12	14	8	3	7	146
defective water closet cisterns, etc., repaired ...	291	239	212	321	152	202	159	213	256	163	2,403
sanitary dustbins provided to other premises ...	692	568	504	385	271	184	35	40	149	181	3,009
urinals cleansed, repaired and reconstructed ...	1	7	3	8	1	2	1	—	—	—	23
courts and backyards paved and repaired ...	45	21	69	41	32	42	12	44	27	6	339
nuisances from animals kept, abated ...	15	23	22	29	31	12	41	18	10	1	202
offensive accumulations removed ...	410	249	206	240	406	122	91	144	97	202	2,167
smoke nuisances dealt with ...	30	8	15	8	6	4	6	4	21	15	117
cases of overcrowding dealt with ...	5	60	84	56	—	14	—	8	2	—	229
miscellaneous sanitary improvements effected...	2223	2431	2579	2908	2691	2675	2144	1876	1310	1139	21,976
"	8,275	9,005	8,616	8,351	7,511	7,161	5,568	5,732	4,767	4,328	69,312

Summary of other Miscellaneous Work
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of visits and revisits to premises ...	41747	41309	42860	44251	50673	58851	45825	36988	33080	33785
" drains tested ...	260	207	365	434	416	391	306	217	111	291
" visits respecting infectious diseases ...	437	560	635	373	407	632	560	446	194	312
" notices issued for abatement of nuisances including informal and statutory ...	3965	3950	3275	2973	2196	2066	1675	2089	1942	2030
" statutory notices not complied with at the close of the year ...	6	6	7	8	6	20	16	35	88	54
" summonses issued for non-compliance with notices served to abate nuisances ...	—	1	2	—	1	10	12	9	12	11
" registered premises under supervision ...	2145	2180	2345	2529	2438	2644	2813	3519	3035	3107
" visits paid to registered premises ...	2163	2216	4345	5435	8265	9201	10410	3030	2658	3115
" reference to other Departments ...	1053	1134	1076	1592	1105	1361	1656	1341	5857	6838

ABOLITION OF CESSPOOLS—DRAINAGE

The provision of main drainage facilities in the Walsgrave and Hawkesbury districts of the city has had a twofold benefit upon the areas served. In addition to the advantage of this urban amenity which owners of existing properties in the areas have continued to take, a new field of development has also been opened up. Large areas of land formerly of little value have now become attractive to the speculative builder. New houses provided with all the requirements of modern sanitation stand side by side with those which enjoy a health environment through the efforts of the inspectorate. This main sewerage scheme has had a far reaching effect upon the districts concerned. Of first importance to the sanitarian is the beneficial effect upon environmental hygiene which the abolition of practically 200 offensive privies or pail closets and 50 cesspools—some serving groups of dwelling houses—has had since the scheme began. The scheme has also contributed towards meeting the prevailing housing shortage locally. This in turn has had a salutary effect upon the city's finances. There is an appreciation of building land values in the area. Moreover, the owners of existing properties who have availed themselves of the sewerage facilities have also benefited in the enhanced values of the properties improved.

SANITARY PROVISION AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

The estimated number of sanitary conveniences, privies and cesspools existing at the close of the year is shown below :—

	<i>December 1954.</i>	<i>December 1955.</i>
No. of waterclosets in houses, institutions, schools, factories, etc. ...	106,684	111,099
No. of privy closets	78	75
No. of pail closets	257	255
No. of cesspools	338	334

Refuse collection and disposal are carried out under the direction of the City Engineer. Most of the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, the remainder being destroyed in incineration at the City's refuse destructor. The quantity of refuse collected during the year was 71,514 tons; of this quantity 17,801 tons were disposed of by incineration and 53,713 tons disposed of by controlled tipping.

The progress achieved during the year in Walsgrave and Hawkesbury districts included the abolition of five privy or pail closets for which six water closets connected to the main drainage system were provided. Four cesspools were also abolished.

DUSTBINS

Although the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, made a valiant attempt within the framework of the existing law to clarify the onus of responsibility for providing dustbins to private dwelling houses, the terms of the Act are

not decisive. This has been evident in the results of the various appeals which have been made to Courts of Summary Jurisdiction up and down the country.

Since this new legislation came into force Magistrates have taken the view that Section 8 of the 1953 Act was permissive and that even when it was proved that a new dustbin was needed at the premises they need not make any order at all. The appeal of the owner or occupier has therefore been allowed and no order made against the other contending party, leaving the premises still without a dustbin. There may be some justification for this view in the wording of the relevant clause (b) of Section 8, which reads "on the hearing of the appeal the Court may make such order as it thinks fit with respect to compliance with the notice either by the appellant or by the said other person". However, on a recent appeal by a local authority to the Divisional Court this view was held to be unsound. The Court returned the case to the magistrates with a direction that an order should be made. Furthermore the Judge said: "I have come to the conclusion that once it has been proved that there is no adequate dustbin, and if the owner and the occupier are before the court, the court has a duty to make an order against one or the other".

This decision can well put an end to the dustbin muddle in those local sanitary authorities which, like Coventry, endeavour to secure the provisions of dustbins to private dwelling houses through the discretionary powers contained in Section 75 (1) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

During the year 94 statutory notices were served upon owners of dwelling houses and three statutory notices were served upon occupiers in respect to the provision of adequate dustbins for the proper storage of domestic refuse.

Dustbins were supplied by the Local Authority in default of the owner in sixteen instances.

No single item in all the wide field of public health administration can claim to have invoked the law so persistently during recent years as the dustbin. Its humble status belies its place of importance in environmental hygiene, but while it is not suggested that this is the whole reason for this spate of litigation, it is worth repeating that many local authorities prefer to supply dustbins as a municipal undertaking. The public health hazards of this problem make a strong point in favour of this method of overcoming a serious difficulty. The adoption of this method is becoming more widespread throughout the country and leaves no doubt as to the importance attached to this aspect of sanitation.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

The sanitary inspectorate dealt with 212 cases of vermin infestation during the year. This represented a percentage of 0.27 of the total housing strength of the city. The bedbug was the pest requiring most attention and effective and complete

disinfestation was carried out in each instance. The insecticides used by the Department contain D.D.T. and Gammexane in liquid form or generated as a residual smoke. Other pests dealt with included fleas (*Pulex irritans*), cockroaches, both German and black beetle types, ants, wasps and crickets.

The advantage of the modern insecticide over the old fashioned types upon which local authorities had formerly to depend is found in the residual toxic qualities of the film left adhering to the treated surfaces.

PIG KEEPING

It can again be reported that no applications were received during the year under review from persons proposing to keep pigs in private or allotment gardens. Thirty-nine inspections of existing pig keepers' premises were made by the inspectorial staff. The number of cottagers pigs slaughtered was thirty.

The remarkable change in the incidence of private pig keeping since five years ago when more than 2,000 were recorded, says much for the present economic state of the country. Food in greater variety both from home and overseas together with freedom of purchase without controls all played their part in dispensing with the need for rearing the domestic pig. Wider powers of control over the keeping of pigs have also had a restraining influence locally.

Private pig keepers are given every encouragement to avail themselves of the up-to-date slaughtering facilities at the public abattoir. The case commented upon in the previous report where magisterial proceedings were instituted in connection with pig keeping at the rear of a private dwelling house, reached finality in the Court of Quarter Sessions. The pig keeper lodged an appeal against the magistrates order requiring pig keeping to be discontinued. The magistrates' decision was upheld and the appeal was dismissed.

REFERENCES TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS

It is always a pleasant duty to place on record the cordial relations which exist between the various departments and the sanitary inspectors' section in connection with the many and varied references necessary for the proper administration of the sanitary services.

A total of 1,142 references was made during the year to the City Engineer, Water Engineer, Housing, Parks, Education Departments, and the Estate Surveyor and City Architect. The matters referred were in relation to dangerous and unauthorised buildings, wastage of water, removal of refuse, clearing of obstructed sewers and combined drains and defects in Corporation owned houses.

In addition to the above, searches were made in respect to 5,696 properties for the Town Clerk's Department under the Land Charges Act, 1925.

The coming into operation of new legislation necessitated many forms and other stationery for which a special word of thanks is due to the Printing and Stationery Department for the expeditious and efficient manner in which our needs were met.

HOUSING

The year was one of active preparation for putting into effect the slum clearance proposals intended to be carried out within the next five year period. A report was prepared and submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government on this project in accordance with the provisions of the first section of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Seven Clearance Orders made in 1939 which had reached the enquiry stage but were not confirmed and which represented originally 163 unfit dwelling houses, (reduced to 58 unfit properties through wartime destruction) received confirmation and became operative before the year end. Forty five dwelling houses were each provided with a separate bathroom and hot water supply.

A total of 111 dwelling houses qualified for grant under Part II of the Housing Act, 1949. The building work entailed in the improvements was inspected and passed and the full amount in grants made to the applicants was £11,468.

Certificates of disrepair were granted in forty two instances under the rent increase clauses of Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Five certificates of revocation were also granted.

Five 'Individual Demolition Orders' were made in respect to dwelling houses which could not be rendered fit for habitation at reasonable expenses.

Two Clearance Orders involving 50 unfit properties were also made but these were finally dealt with by the appropriate Committee under the "Compulsory Purchase Orders" provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts, in connection with the City's redevelopment. One owner gave a statutory undertaking to close three unfit properties as an alternative to immediate demolition.

The detailed inspection and recording of 134 houses for Housing Act purposes was accomplished in the year under review.

The Minister expressed satisfaction with the proposals the Council submitted for dealing with unfit houses locally. It was also made known that the final approval to the programmes of individual authorities will only be given when the size and distribution of the national slum problem have been determined. A short period of grace has therefore been extended to the many hundreds of properties in the City which have long outlived their usefulness both socially, morally and economically. However, this does not preclude preparatory slum clearance work and individual projects of demolition. Several of these projects were commenced by the year end.

The maintenance and repair of habitable dwelling houses through the powers contained in the Public Health Act, 1936, received particular attention throughout the year. In this connection 3,253 repairs and improvements were effected for the abatement of nuisances associated with housing conditions.

HOUSING STATISTICS—YEAR 1955

The following information is given in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

1. (a) Total number dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 2037
- (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose ... 5804
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead 1. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 977
- (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose ... 1475
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 92
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 1240

Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices :—

Numbered of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority 339

Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

The City Engineer kindly gives the following information concerning new houses :—

- (a) Number of new houses erected during the year, Total 3494
- (b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts
 - (1) By Local Authority 1725
 - (2) By other bodies or persons 36
- (c) Under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1933 Nil

REHOUSING

Number of applicants on waiting list 1.1.55	10370
Number of applicants on waiting list 31.12.55 (after revision)	7076
From Category "A" (First Priority)	13
From Category "B" (Second Priority)	905
From Category "C" (Third Priority)	4600
From Category "D" (Fourth Priority)	1558
From Unclassified Category	—
Number of families rehoused by end of 1955	1804
Number of applications for Corporation houses made during the year 1955	2215
Number of houses erected by the Corporation during 1955	1725
Number of houses voluntarily closed	47
Number of houses demolished	21
Number of families rehoused as a result of representations by the Health Department	127

Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices,	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	649
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices,	
(a) By owners	595
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil

CARAVANS, FAIRS AND CAMPING SITES

One licence was granted under Section 269 (1) of the Public Health Act, 1936, permitting the establishment of a site for the accommodation of 12 moveable dwellings.

One site for which a licence was granted in 1951 making provision for 16 moveable dwellings was cleared during the year by the land owner who required the site for extensions to a commercial undertaking.

An interesting case connected with another site licence also granted in 1951 came before the City Magistrates. The site owner appealed to the local court against a condition attached to the original licence which limited the number of moveable dwellings to be admitted on to the land at any one time to a maximum of eight. Although a lapse of more than three years had ensued since the condition was first imposed, and the 21 days of grace within which such an appeal was heard. After due consideration however, the Court dismissed the appeal. This site was cleared before the year end under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Four licences were granted in the form of renewals under Section 269 (2) of the Act to station and use caravans for a limited period, subject to licence conditions.

Some pride and satisfaction can justifiably be taken in the control which is now exercised over the local caravan population. The efforts of the Sanitary Inspectorate backed by a resolute policy of the Health Committee have succeeded in reducing the unauthorised use of land as sites for moveable dwellings to negligible proportions. Moreover the extent of such occupation is restricted in the main to the comparatively few caravan dwellers who will ultimately be accommodated on the licenced sites provided for their needs.

There has been an influx of trailer type caravans, noticeable during the year reviewed, located on the various Corporation building sites in different parts of the City. These are occupied by members of the building trades employed on the estates who will move on when the work is completed. The temporary nature of these moveable dwellings did not call for the application of the licencing provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The modern trailer type caravan has provided a commendable expedient for many families without a home of their own, and under modern planning arrangements the dangers of excessive overcrowding with all its adherent risks are being avoided.

VACANT BOMBED SITES AND WASTE LAND

In co-operation with the City Engineer and Surveyor and his staff special attention was given to the many vacant bombed sites and other undeveloped land throughout the city which had become repositories for refuse and litter. A comprehensive survey was made by the sanitary inspectorate. Out of a total of 167 sites surveyed 99 of them were found to be littered with refuse of various kinds. Transport and labour was placed at our disposal and 69 loads were removed. The refuse consisted chiefly of scrap metal in the form of old cycle frames, tin cans, pots, pans, old dustbins, bedsteads, baths and perambulators. A quantity of old bedding was removed and a considerable quantity of paper, cardboard and sacking was handled. It was possible to burn much of the paper on the sites, but all other refuse was removed to the Corporation controlled tip. The quantity of dustbin refuse deposited on these sites was proportionately very small compared with the more bulky articles of domestic origin which were removed.

It is recognised that the regular clearance of these bombed sites and pieces of waste land is not the complete solution to the problem. The use of the land for building purposes or occupation by some industry, trade or other business would prove effective in preventing the sites from becoming dumping grounds. This subject is receiving close attention and both the City Architect and City Engineer have joined in discussions on what can be done to fill in with buildings, etc., the more central of these sites. Meanwhile it is of real public health importance to ensure that no site becomes either a nuisance or danger to public health and that harbourage for rodents is quickly removed.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS

During the year the number of animals slaughtered at the public abattoir was the largest for any one year since its opening, and the number exceeded the previous year by more than 20,000. The increase was, in the main, accounted for by the large increase in pig killing. Compared with five years ago the throughput has gone up by well over 100% and now the meat inspectors are dealing with over 180,000 animals in a year. It is expected that this figure will represent the annual killing for the next few years so far as the needs of the city are concerned. However, it may well be exceeded if the wholesalers now operating at the abattoir commence killings for export to neighbouring authorities or bacon factories.

The year has been the first whole year to be under review since Government control ended in July, 1954. After the initial spending spree of the trade in the latter part of that year it was thought that conditions would soon become more stable and that slaughtering would gradually subside. However, so far as we in Coventry have been concerned and contrary to what has happened in other areas, we have had increased slaughtering.

Valued at conservative estimates the kill amounts to approximately £3,000,000 so it will be readily recognised how large a part the public abattoir plays in the life of the city, for only a very small portion of the carcase meat slaughtered here is sold outside the city.

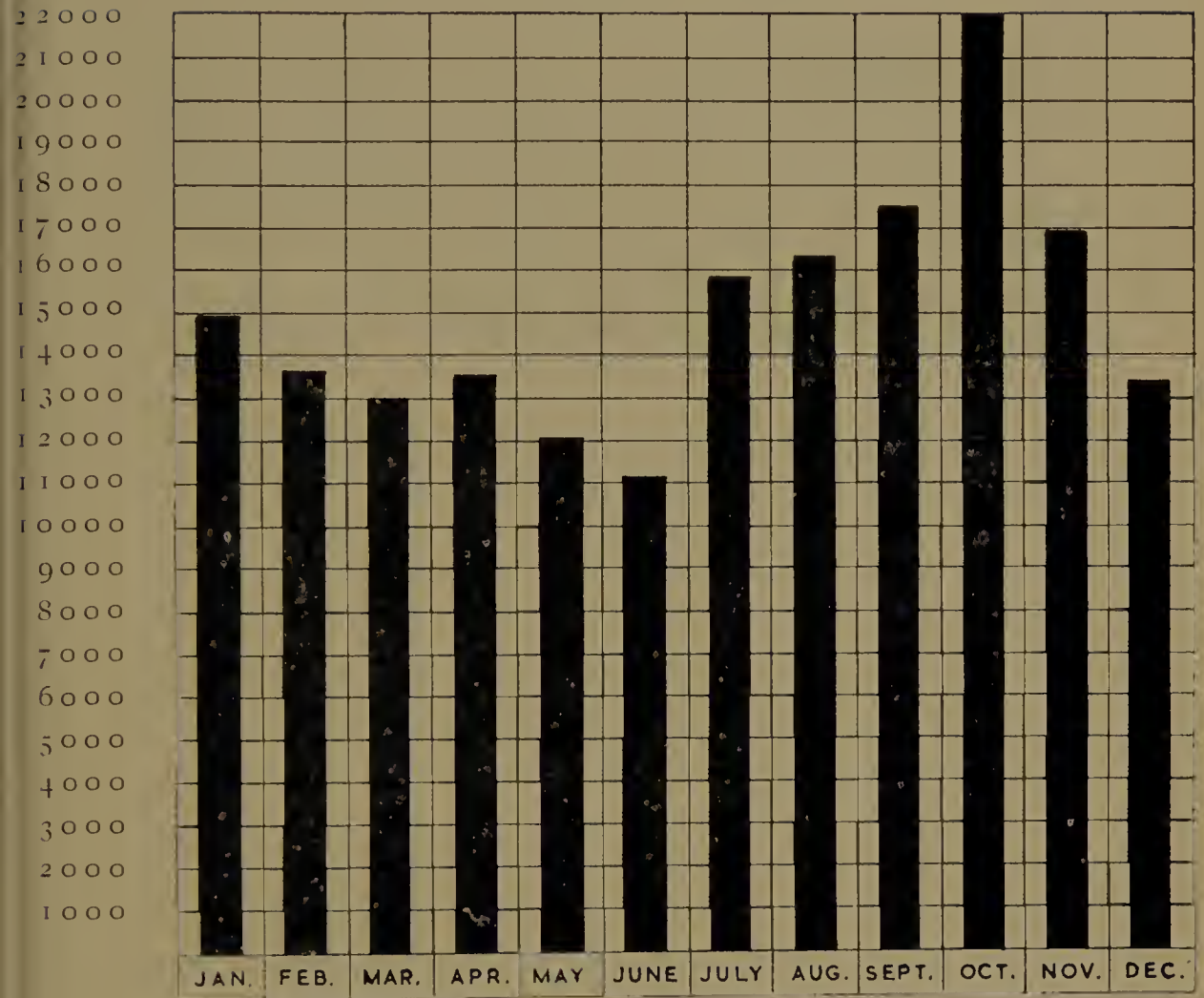
In order to deal with such large numbers of animals, for the abattoir could never have been planned to deal with such a throughput unless slaughtering hours and number of men engaged were considerably increased, the working hours have now been fixed from 6.0 a.m. to 6.0 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, 6.0 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays, and more than 50 slaughtermen are employed by the various firms operating there. Private slaughtering by butchers has almost ceased to exist and is now only being carried out by some six such butchers. It would appear, then, to be most obvious that butchers now find it more convenient to employ slaughtering contractors to do their work or to buy directly off the hook at the wholesale meat market.

For the most part, the largest amount of slaughtering is being carried out by the wholesalers—the Fatstock Marketing Corporation and G. H. Monk and Co. Ltd.—and by a Slaughtering Contractors' Group. On the whole the allocation of slaughtering-hall space and timing have presented no major problems, but there has been difficulty in maintaining a sufficient supply of rollers, hanging chains and offal racks at time of peak killing.

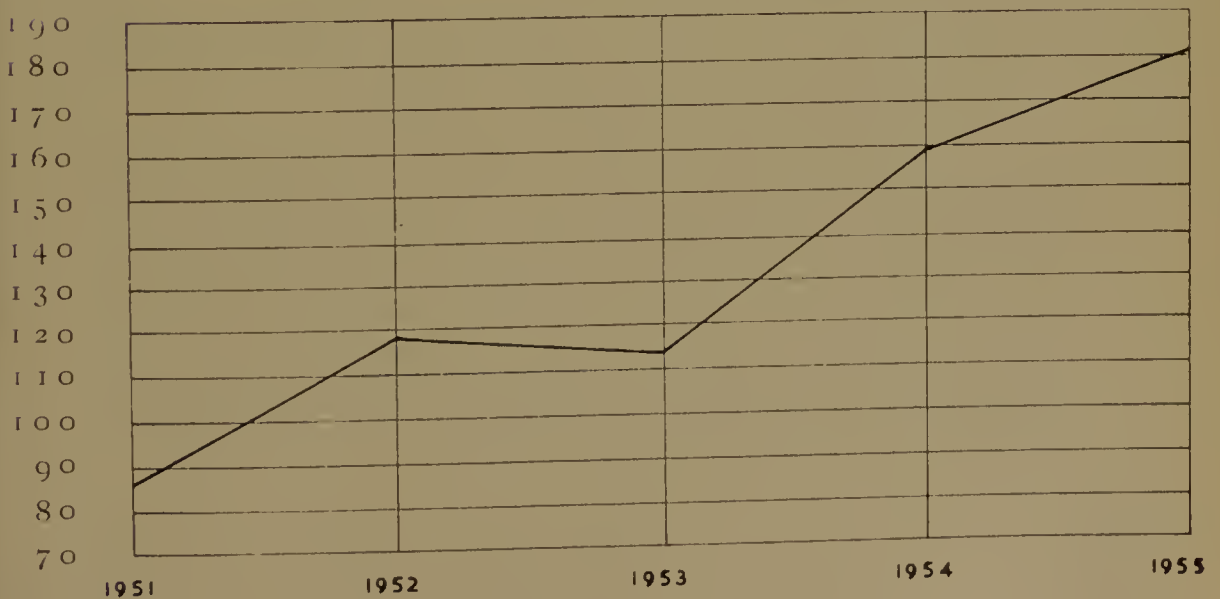
The use of temporary lairage facilities in the old cattle market has proved to be of great value and it is to be hoped that permanent buildings will be erected on the site to solve the problem of accommodating the larger numbers of livestock sent in for slaughter during the seasonal peak-killing periods.

The standard of carcase dressing has improved during the year and the improvement in hygiene standards during slaughter has been maintained, although the problem of the removal of stomach content from the beef slaughterhall is still causing some concern. Much of this problem would be solved if a stable and adequate labouring force was employed, but with other more congenial work freely available in the city great difficulty has been experienced in recruiting adequate men for this work.

CHART ILLUSTRATING ANNUAL KILLING SPREAD-OVER FOR 1955



GRAPH SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS



Animal Health.

The distinct improvement in the quality of the animals slaughtered at the abattoir noted last year continues. Private buying is a big factor in bringing about this improvement, at the same time, the work of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in eradicating tuberculosis is also an important factor.

Approximately 100 of the cows slaughtered were brought in under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Orders and as such were known to have the disease or to have reacted to the tuberculin test.

Tuberculin infection figures continue to improve and there has been a marked drop in the incidence of diseases other than tuberculosis in cows and cattle other than cows.

As a result, some 40 tons less of meat and offal were condemned during the year than in 1954, even though, as has been earlier noted, there were some 20,000 more animals killed. This shows how the quality of the animals brought in for slaughter has improved. During the year some 108 tons of meat and offal were found to be unfit for human consumption. This is nearly 100% less than the figure for 1953 when the number of animals killed was approximately a third of those killed this year. All this is most gratifying.

In bovines, fascioliasis is still the prominent cause of unfitness in livers and there was a loss of about 1 in 20 but this figure does not take into account the large number of part livers condemned for the same reason. The loss of sheep livers for similar reasons is somewhat less yet still high enough to warrant further research into methods of ridding animals and pastures of these and other parasites.

In pigs the outstanding disease is virus and other forms of pneumonia. Approximately 1 in 15 pigs were affected with this condition.

Diseases of Animals Acts.

Four cases of Swine Fever were found in the pigs slaughtered at the abattoir during the year, and in all a total of 873 swine fever contact pigs were brought in for slaughter.

Thirty-six cases of suspected Rhinitis in pigs were also brought in for slaughter by officers of the Ministry of Agriculture. Some six of these pigs were found to have deformities of the turbinate bones of the snout. This was the first time this disease had been encountered at the abattoir and the method of inspection and technique was new to the inspectors. However, the requirements of the Ministry were properly followed in all cases. The veterinary officers concerned were fully satisfied with the steps taken by the meat inspection staff and were very appreciative of the help offered them by your officers.

Post mortem examinations were carried out on all animals which had died in the lairs or in transit. Where a notifiable disease was suspected blood specimens were taken for bacteriological examination.

Tuberculosis Orders.

We continue to be a centre for the slaughter of animals sent in by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the provisions of these orders. Eighteen cows were sent in for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Orders and 61 under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950.

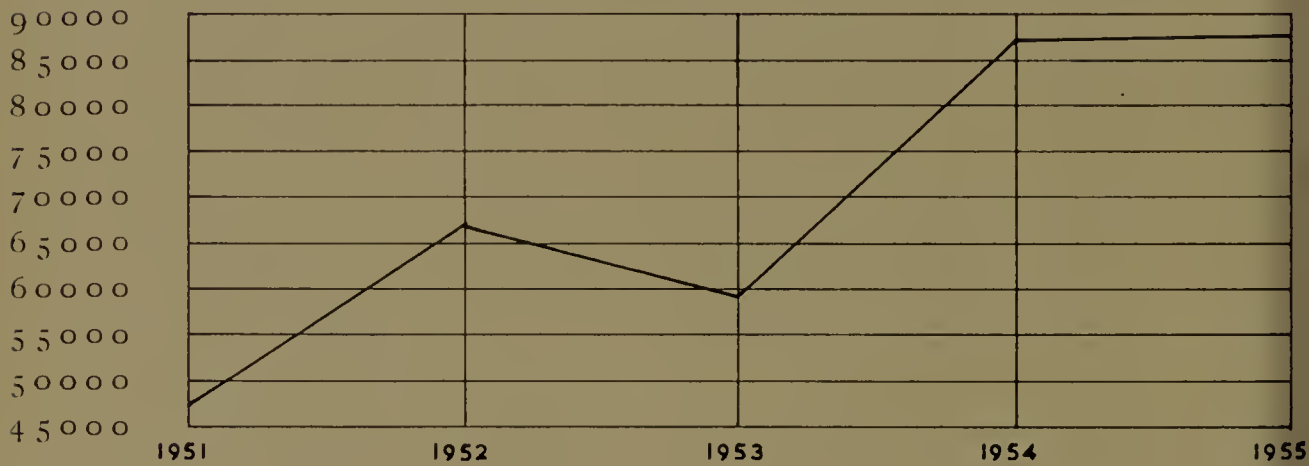
GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF ANNUAL KILL AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR

BOVINES.

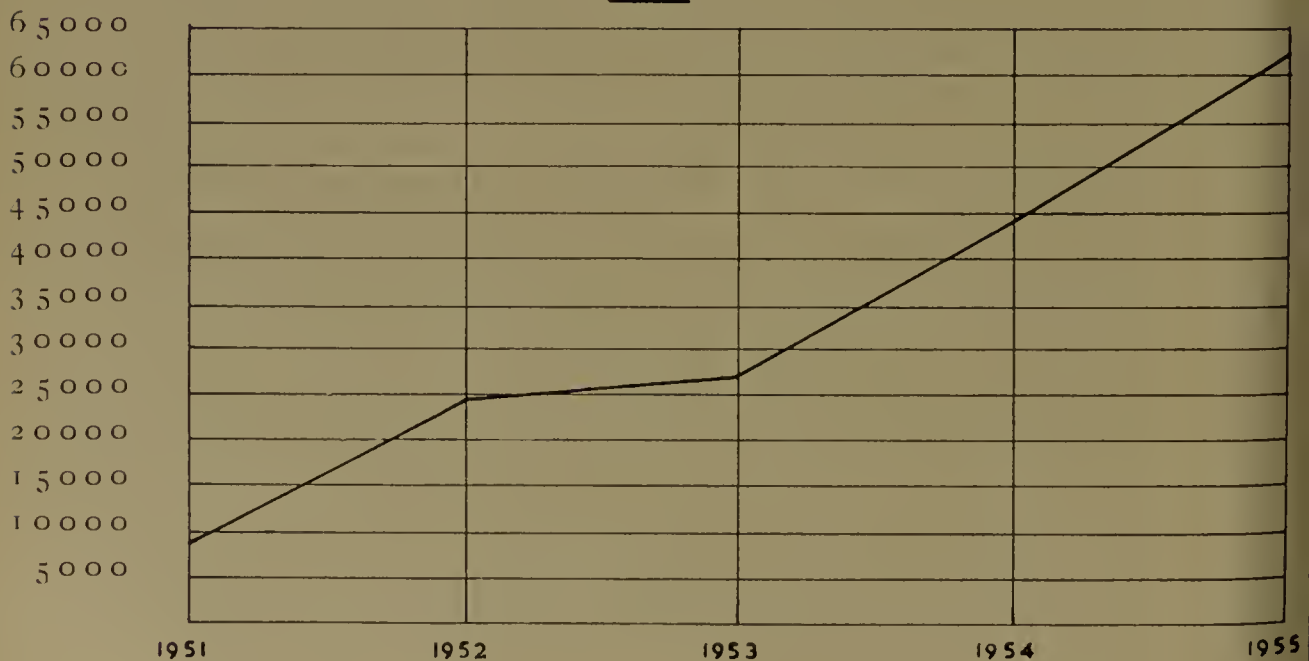
———— CATTLE (OTHER THAN COWS).
 - - - - COWS.
 CALVES.



SHEEP.



PIGS.



Of the former, most were discovered as a result of positive milk samples being found in tests on milks sent in for bacteriological analysis by food inspectors and sampling officers.

Although the inspections made on animals slaughtered under these Orders have to be most searching, it is fully appreciated by the meat inspection staff that by doing so they are playing no small part in the tuberculosis eradication scheme of the country. In no case was it found necessary to wholly condemn any of the reactors, and of the animals slaughtered under the Orders, 50% were found to be suffering from advanced tuberculosis.

Congenital tuberculosis in calves was observed in seven cases of which six were reported for further investigation. As a result five dams were traced and slaughtered and all were found to be suffering from the disease. Only in one case was a dam not traced and this was due to the loss of the calf's market number.

A close and friendly relationship exists between the meat inspectorate and the officers of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry and any worth-while information found in the post mortem examinations at the abattoir is freely passed on to them for further field investigation. In this way many cases have been successfully followed up which otherwise might have been missed.

Imported Meat.

With the sole exception of Armours and Co. Limited of Cox Street, all imported meats are received at the Corporation's Wholesale Meat Market by the following firms:—Swift and Co. Limited, Weddells, Towers and the Fatstock Marketing Corporation.

Routine inspections are carried out daily and during the year 1,285 lbs. were found to be unfit for human consumption. Bone-taint and mould conditions continue to be the chief cause of condemnation. One case of *cysticercus bovis* was found in a forequarter of Australian beef.

Meat Transport.

Hygiene standards for the conveyance of meat from the meat market and cooling hall were generally satisfactory so far as contracting transport and private vans were concerned. In a few instances it was necessary to make verbal representations for minor improvements.

The conduct of those persons engaged in the handling of meat at the abattoir and meat market has generally been up to statutory requirements.

Legal Proceedings.

It was necessary in two cases to call in the R.S.P.C.A. in connection with what appeared to be instances of cruelty and working in co-operation with that Society's officer for this district

the Senior Meat Inspector gave expert evidence in their prosecution.

In one case, that of conveying pigs in an overcrowded cattle truck, the owner of the vehicle and the driver were found guilty and fined a total of £35 with £5 5s. od. costs.

In the other, in which an animal was sent in for emergency slaughter without it having had proper care and attention previously, the owner was found guilty and fined £20.

Cysticercus Bovis.

No generalised case of this parasitic condition was found during the year and there were five less cases of localised infections than were seen last year, 52 as compared with 57. Only five cases were found in cows, the remainder being met in 2-3 year old bullocks and heifers. Seven more cases involving variable cysts were found than in last year. The carcasses were, in every case, refrigerated in accordance with Ministry requirements.

General.

The full return to private trading has now been in operation for eighteen months and the butchers are now in close contact with the department's meat inspectors. It is pleasing to report that the relationship is a friendly one. Decisions taken by the meat inspectors have been accepted without any dissent despite the fact that on occasions the financial loss to the butcher or wholesaler has been substantial. Points raised and representations made by the meat inspectors have always had a fair hearing and whenever possible help has always been forthcoming.

Relations between the meat inspectors and Ministry and private practising veterinary surgeons in the district are most friendly and the closest liaison between the two professions is maintained. Our work in notifying suspect cases and any worthwhile information is very much appreciated.

Four district inspectors were granted full facilities to obtain practical experience in Meat Inspection at the abattoir during the year and all subsequently were successful at the examination of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health.

From time to time through the year biological material has been made available for the grammar and secondary schools. Groups and parties as well as local authority representatives have been shown around the abattoir during the year.

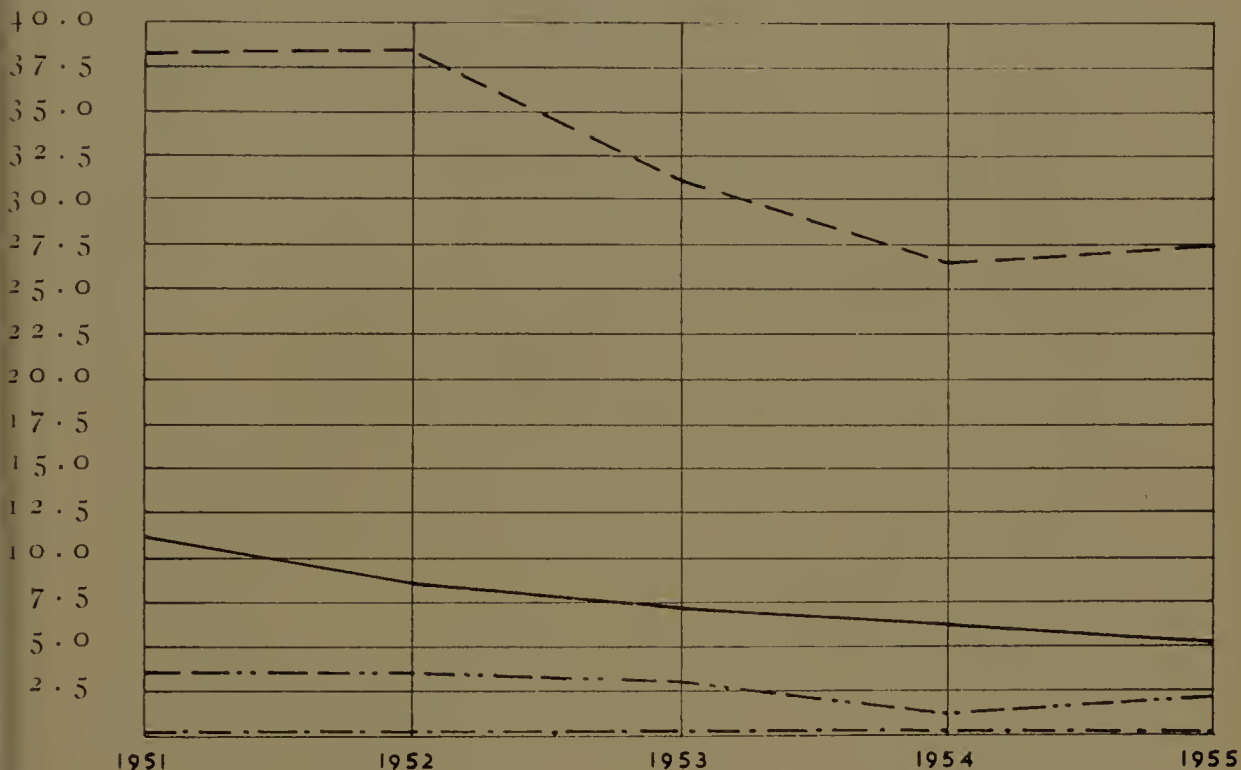
The meat inspectors continue to supervise the collection of animal glands for pharmaceutical purposes. Liver fit for processing, but unfit for human consumption, is collected directly by them and handed over to the Markets Department for its subsequent sale.

During the year it has been necessary for the meat inspectors to continue the "shift" system of working commenced last year to fully cover the hours of killing.

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF PERCENTAGE OF DISEASE INCIDENCE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED

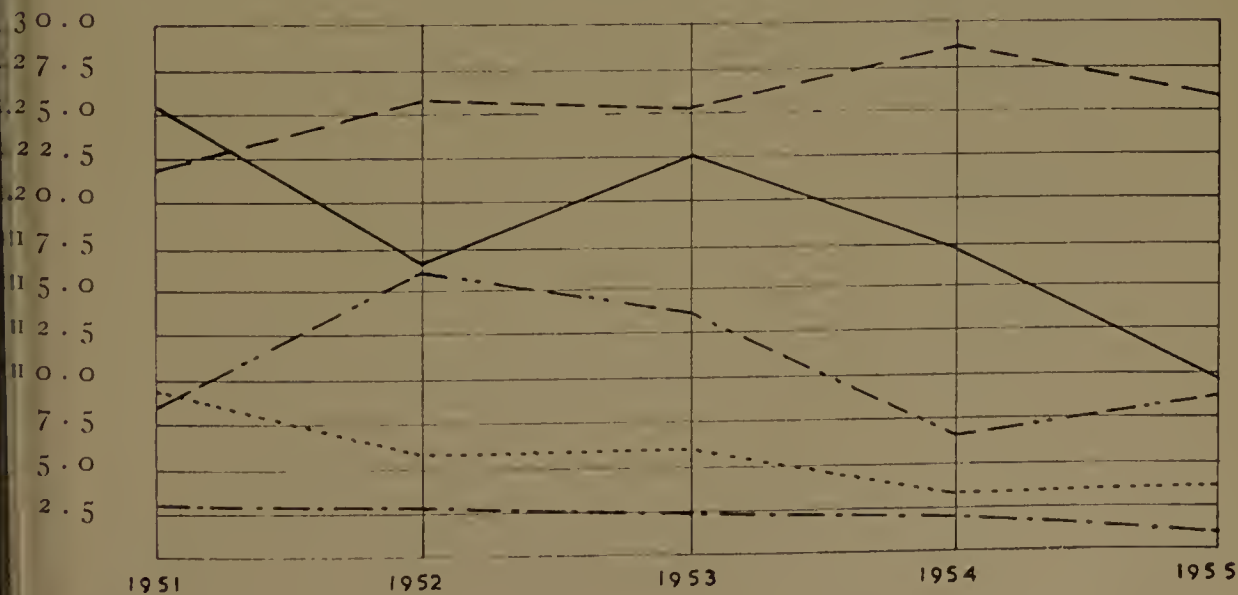
(A) - TUBERCULOSIS.

_____ CATTLE (OTHER THAN COWS).
 - - - - - COWS.
 CALVES.
 - PIGS.



(B) - OTHER DISEASES.

_____ CATTLE (OTHER THAN COWS).
 - - - - - COWS.
 CALVES.
 SHEEP.
 - PIGS.



Carcases and Organs Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Total	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	180,174	18,624	2,884	8,654	87,750	62,262	—
No. inspected	180,174	18,624	2,884	8,654	87,750	62,262	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	11	17	59	84	81	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1,765	735	21	3,312	5,316	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	—	9.54	26.08	.92	3.87	8.67	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	23	34	9	—	6	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	962	759	2	—	734	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	5.29	27.49	.13	—	1.19	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	52	47	5	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	18	15	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

“Cows” include all female bovines which have calved.

Animals with tuberculosis and some other condition are recorded as affected with tuberculosis only.

Total weight of meat and offal found
unfit in home killed animals slaugh-
tered at the abattoir tons. cwtls. qrs. lbs.

108 2 0 14

Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) affecting whole carcasses

Disease—Condition	Cattle other than Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Emaciation	2	11	—	39	1	53
Moribund	—	—	12	19	15	46
Fever-acute	1	—	1	1	35	38
Immaturity	—	—	23	2	4	29
Oedema	3	2	1	8	10	24
Jaundice	—	—	9	1	1	11
Pyæmia	—	—	5	2	1	8
Toxæmia	—	1	1	5	—	7
Septicæmia:—						
(a) Septic pneumonia ..	—	1	3	1	1	6
(b) Septic mastitis ..	—	—	—	2	—	2
(c) Septic peritonitis ..	3	—	—	—	1	4
(d) Septic pericarditis ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Swine Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	5	5
Swine Fever	—	—	—	—	4	4
Joint-ill	—	—	4	—	—	4
Uræmia	—	1	—	1	1	3
Generalised Neoplasms ..	—	—	—	1	2	3
Arsenical poisoning ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Anaemia	—	—	—	1	—	1
Extensive bruising ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
Malodour	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	11	17	59	84	81	252

**Diseases and Conditions (Other than Tuberculosis) Affecting Parts
or Organs Encountered During Inspection of all Animals During
the Year**

Disease—Condition	Cattle other than Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Oedema	4	11	—	2	13	30
Fatty infiltration	3	15	—	18	4	40
Pigmentation	3	3	2	3	4	15
Emphysema	4	12	—	—	—	16
Pleurisy	164	47	4	37	956	1208
Pneumonia	42	16	9	101	3413	3581
Pericarditis	29	18	1	18	1056	1122
Cirrhosis hepatitis	4	4	1	11	716	736
Enteritis	15	22	—	11	25	73
Mastitis	—	11	—	—	61	72
Arthritis	—	—	—	5	20	25
Nephritis	6	28	—	—	31	65
Peritonitis	83	59	1	10	82	235
Abscess	591	121	4	77	55	848
Hæmorrhage	17	2	—	—	2	21
Tumours	2	3	—	4	4	13
Angiomata	8	203	—	—	—	211
Johne's Disease	17	74	—	—	—	91
Actinomycosis—bacillosis	127	27	—	—	5	159
Fascioliasis	856	301	—	2639	—	3796
Strongylosis	—	—	—	35	—	35
Echinococcus	111	110	—	252	—	473
Pentastomes and other parasites	13	8	—	434	15	469
Cysticercus bovis	47	5	—	—	—	52
Fractures, injuries, etc. ..	5	3	—	2	19	29
Rash	—	—	—	—	44	44
Bacterial necrosis	4	2	—	—	—	6
Adenitis	2	—	—	—	—	2
Fibrosis	2	—	—	—	—	2

Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis

	Advanced	Non-Advanced	Total
Animals slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Orders,	9	9	18
Number of reactors slaughtered under the provisions of the above	—	67	67

Tuberculosis in Calves

Congenital Tuberculosis in calves slaughtered at the abattoir.	Cases observed	Cases reported to Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for investigation	Affected dams slaughtered	Dams clinically healthy	Dams not traced
	7	6	5	—	1

Pharmaceuticals.

	<i>Liver—unfit for food but suitable for processing.</i>	<i>Spinal Cords.</i>	<i>Pancreas.</i>	<i>Thyroids.</i>	<i>Supra- renals.</i>	<i>Ovaries.</i>
Cattle	35,963	5,204	9,359	155	503	30
Calves	—	—	21	—	—	—
Sheep	(included in above)	—	3,930	—	—	—
Pigs	—	83	1,288	—	—	—

Classified Summary of Inspections Carried Out by Meat Inspectors.

Ante and post mortem examinations of animals slaughtered	180,174
Post mortem examinations of animals dead on arrival or in lairs	46
Inspections of inter-depot transfers	198
Re-inspections of home-killed meat and offal ...	18
Detailed inspections of imported meat	17
Inspections of canned meats	23
Inspections of meat carrying vehicles (Public Health Meat Regulations)	3,168
Inspections under Public Health Acts	1,003

IMPORTED MEAT—CONDEMNATIONS

Cysticercus bovis	...	...	...	110 lbs.
Bone-taint	...	...	...	699 lbs.
Moulds	..	...	...	364 lbs.
Maladour	...	...	...	50 lbs.
Decomposition	...	...	...	52 lbs.
Store staleness	...	...	...	10 lbs.
				<hr/> 1,285 lbs. <hr/>

MILK

It is estimated that the quantity of milk consumed daily in the city is approximately 32,500 gallons, comprising :—

				<i>gallons.</i>
Milk from farms in the city	...	...	...	500
Milk from farms within 25—30 mile radius	...	...	...	22,000
Milk from Distributing Depots	...	...	...	10,000

The 32,500 gallons are made up as follows :—

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	26,700
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	1,800
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	100
Channel Island T.T. Milk	...	...	...	...	600
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	3,100
Channel Island Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	200

The number of complaints received during the year respecting sour milk has once again been low, but several complaints were received respecting dirty bottles and bottles containing foreign bodies. One large dairy firm was prosecuted and fined £10 on each of three charges relating to the above, details are reported under magisterial proceedings.

Approximately 1,450 gallons of milk were supplied daily to city schools, this being served to 35,000 children per day, each child receiving one third of a pint or more per school day. The milk has been frequently sampled and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results have shown good standards of quality and cleanliness and safety throughout the year.

PURVEYORS OF MILK

Number of retail purveyors selling milk within the city :—

		1954.	1955.
(a) residing in the city	...	82	73
(b) residing outside the city	...	44	47
Number of retail purveyors selling bottled milk only from shop premises	...	394	392

During the year 854 inspections were made of dairies and milk shops and of milk vehicles.

All of the dairies were inspected as often as possible, and conditions were generally found to be satisfactory.

DESIGNATED MILK

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949/1954.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Table setting out the number of licences issued during 1955.

Pasteurised Milk, Pasteurisers' Licences ...	7
Pasteurised Milk, Dealers' Licences ...	407
Sterilised Milk, Dealers' Licences ...	389
Tuberculin Tested, Dealers' Licences ...	139

The seven pasteurisers' licences mentioned above were issued to seven dairymen and include three licences to pasteurise milk by the H.T.S.T. process and four by the holder process.

At one of the large dairies a new bottle washing machine of the latest type has been installed; this machine was on show at the National Dairy show in London, prior to installation and can be used in conjunction with a de-crating machine.

At another dairy a new UDEC Vacuum bottle filler and capper with sixteen filling heads and eight cappers has been installed and is giving excellent results.

During the year the sale of untreated Tuberculin Tested milk has dwindled, until only one producer retailer from the county area is now selling this type of milk. All the other Tuberculin Tested milk sold in the city is now pasteurised.

Samples of milk were obtained frequently from all the processing dairies and submitted to the laboratory for examination.

The number of samples submitted and the results obtained are set out below :—

Designation.	No. of Samples obtained.	No. Satisfactory.	No. unsatisfactory.			
			Total Unsatisfactory.	By Methylene Blue Test.	By Phosphatase Test.	By Turbidity Test.
Pasteurised	413	402	11	1	10	—
T.T. Pasteurised	257	254	3	—	3	—
Sterilised	148	148	—	—	—	NIL

During the summer 98 samples submitted for the Methylene Blue test were reported void as the shade temperature was above 65°F.

Eight hundred and eighteen samples of designated milk were obtained during the year as compared with nine hundred and thirty-five obtained during 1954.

The number of samples obtained is less than last year due to the closing of four of the processing dairies. The percentage of samples failing to pass the prescribed tests was 1.7% compared with 1.6% in 1954. With respect to the unsatisfactory samples of designated milk, in each instance the dairy premises were revisited, the dairymen interviewed and advised; the repeat samples obtained following this action all gave satisfactory results.

ICE CREAM

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947—1952.

The number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage, and sale of ice cream within the city at the close of the year, together with comparative figures for recent years are as follows :—

			1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.
No. of premises registered for manufacture and sale	...	...	71	72	68	51
No. of premises registered for storage and sale only	...	...	600	775	725	749

The number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream declined during the year, whilst the number of new registrations for the sale of ice cream during the year showed a steady increase. The majority of these new registrations are for sale of wrapped ice cream in shops.

During the year inspections of premises and vehicles were made and samples of ice cream submitted to the laboratory for examination for bacteriological cleanliness in accordance with the Ministry's provisional grades.

The samples were graded as follows :—

Grade 1	54	} Satisfactory
Grade 2	9	
Grade 3	7	} Unsatisfactory
Grade 4	3	

The ten samples of ice cream which were graded as unsatisfactory failed mainly through inefficient methods of sterilizing of equipment. Manufacturers were advised accordingly and when repeat samples were obtained they were found to be satisfactory. The table below gives a comparison of the results of samples of ice cream taken during the period 1948 to 1955 inclusive. The number of samples for 1955 is below those taken in previous years. The explanation of this is that there are now only 51 registered manufacturers of ice cream in the city, and

very few of these are now actually engaged in the manufacture of ice cream. This reflects the great increase that has taken place in the sale of wrapped ice cream manufactured by large companies on a national scale. It will be noted that the percentage of unsatisfactory samples for 1955 is considerably lower than that for previous years, this reduction may be due in part to the development in sales of prepacked ice cream.

Table of Comparison of Ice Cream Samples taken 1948-1955

	No. of Samples	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory	% Unsatisfactory
1948	170	99	71	42%
1949	154	86	68	44%
1950	139	96	43	31%
1951	142	112	30	21%
1952	221	165	56	25%
1953	116	92	24	21%
1954	85	54	31	37%
1955	73	63	10	14%

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Premises Registered Under Section 14, of the Act for the Manufacture, Storage or Sale of Food.

This Section prohibits the use of premises for the manufacture or sale of the undermentioned foods unless the premises are suitable for the purpose and are duly registered by the local authority.

- (a) The sale or manufacture of ice cream or the storage of ice cream intended for sale; or
- (b) The preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. (The preparation of meat or fish by cooking is deemed to be the preservation thereof for this purpose.)

Before registration is effected, the premises must comply with the provisions of Section 13, which lays down certain requirements relating to structural conditions, suitability and cleanliness which must be observed in order to prevent contamination of the food produced or sold.

The number of registered premises under the Act is set out as follows :—

	1954.	1955.
Number of premises on register, 1st January	1,194	1,158
Number of premises added to register during the year	171	34
Number of premises on register, 31st December	1,158	1,165

Classification of premises registered at close of year.

	1954.	1955.
Premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream	68	51
Premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream	725	749
Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of pressed, potted or preserved meat, etc.	222	221
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages only	95	95
Premises registered for cooking of fish ...	48	49

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

A close liaison with the Public Health Laboratory Service in connexion with the investigation of food borne diseases has been established. These examinations are of the utmost importance and their value cannot be over-estimated.

In the year under discussion forty-one samples of food were submitted to the laboratory in connexion with cases of paratyphoid fever, food poisoning, and in respect of complaints from school kitchens and canteens. The samples were most varied and covered a very wide range, including sausages, fish paste, fruit pudding and gelatine. Six samples were reported as being unsatisfactory from the bacteriological aspect and these related to faggots, mussels, Chinese egg albumen, luncheon meat and chitterlings. The samples of faggots and luncheon meat, which were taken during the investigation of food poisoning outbreaks, were found to be heavily contaminated with food poisoning organisms. Appropriate action was, of course, taken in each case. The supply of mussels examined had been obtained from a wholesaler and were reported as slightly contaminated with B.Coli. Action was taken by the firm to obtain certificates of purification treatment in respect of future consignments. The chitterlings which were found to be in a decomposing condition, which was confirmed by bacteriological examination, were the subject of a prosecution.

During the year the Ministry of Health called attention to the unsatisfactory condition of certain consignments of Chinese egg albumen. This necessitated all the bakers in the city being visited and numerous samples of egg albumen being taken. Of the samples submitted one was found to contain salmonella organisms and the remainder of the egg albumen was surrendered

by the baker and destroyed. The bakery trade in Coventry showed a very helpful attitude towards our enquiries and advice in connexion with the notification from the Ministry, and readily carried out the technical suggestions afforded them in connexion with the use of egg albumen. It may be significant to point out that no cases of food poisoning from this source occurred in the city during the year.

Report on the Administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in relation to Sampling and Analysis of Food and Drugs for the year ending 13st December, 1955.

During the year 744 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the public analyst who certified 695 to be genuine and 49 unsatisfactory.

The samples detailed in the table below were collected in the following manner.

Formal Samples : 27. Informal Samples : 717.

Articles.	Total	Genuine	Unsatisfactory
Baking Powder	4	4	..
Beer	2	2	..
Butter	11	10	1
Cake and Bun Flours and Pudding Mixtures ...	32	29	3
Cereal Products	7	7	..
Coffee, Coffee and Chicory ...	19	19	..
Cream	2	2	..
Custard and Dessert Powders	14	14	..
Dessicated Coconut	2	2	..
Flavouring Essences	10	10	..
Flour	29	29	..
Gravy Powder	2	2	..
Herbs and Spices	61	61	..
Jellies	23	22	1
Lard	1	1	..
Margarine	2	1	1
Meat and Fish Pastes	35	35	..
Meat (Tinned)	7	7	..
Medicines and Drugs	127	108	19
Milk	197	179	18
Peas (Tinned or Dried) ...	7	7	..
Preserves	33	33	..
Sandwich Spread	9	9	..
Sauces and Pickles	16	14	2
Soups	30	29	1
Sponge Mixtures	10	10	..
Sweets	2	1	1
Suet	7	7	..
Tea	7	7	..
Vinegar	4	4	..
Others	32	30	2
Totals	774	695	49

MILK

Eighteen samples of milk were reported during the year to be unsatisfactory. Details of the samples and the action taken are set out below and each case is identified by a letter of the alphabet.

Case A.—One informal sample and two formal samples of Channel Island milk were reported to be deficient of fat. In accordance with the prescribed procedure the results were reported to the Ministry of Food.

Case B.—In this case thirteen informal samples comprising one consignment were obtained in course of delivery to a processing dairy. One sample being reported 10% deficient of fat. As the total consignment was satisfactory no action was taken.

Case C.—In this case twelve informal samples comprising one consignment were obtained in course of delivery and seven samples, all of mornings milks, were reported to be deficient of fat. Twelve formal samples were obtained and again the seven samples of mornings milk were all deficient of fat. However the total consignment of mornings and evenings milk gave an average fat content of 3.27% fat. As it was evident that there was no extraction of fat the farmer was interviewed, informed of the results and advised as to feeding and milking times in order to balance the mornings and evenings fat content.

OTHER FOODS

Of the remaining thirty-one samples of food other than milk found to be unsatisfactory, three were formal samples and twenty-eight informal samples. Details of action taken in each case are set out below.

Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine.

An informal sample was obtained and the label was reported to be unsatisfactory. The vendor was interviewed and he agreed to amend the label of this product immediately.

This further informal sample, was reported as unsatisfactory being 35% deficient of ammonia. A formal sample was obtained and found to be satisfactory.

Butter.

This was an informal sample obtained from a butter factory in the city. The analyst reported that the butter contained 1% excess moisture. The manufacturer was interviewed and cautioned and further samples obtained were found to be satisfactory.

Celery Pills.

An informal sample was obtained from a local shop and reported to be deficient of celery. A formal sample was obtained and found to be genuine.

Cream of Mushroom Soup

This was an informal sample obtained from a local shop-keeper which was reported to be deficient of 20% fat when diluted to instructions. When the vendor was interviewed he informed the inspector that these tins of soup were old stock and he had withdrawn the remainder from sale and destroyed them so no formal sample could be obtained.

Horseradish Cream.

The analyst reported this sample to be unsatisfactory. In the setting out of the statement of ingredients it was uncertain whether such statement should be read across or down each column. A letter was sent to the manufacturers asking for their comments on the analyst's report, and they agreed to amend the label accordingly.

Iodine.

This was an informal sample purchased from a small shop and was certified as being deficient of 24.9% Pot. Iodine. Upon revisiting to obtain a formal sample it was found that none was in stock.

Jingaleena

This was an informal sample of cake mixture reported to be unsatisfactory in that it contained grubs. The shopkeeper was interviewed and the remainder of the stock was surrendered and destroyed.

Macleans Stomach Powder.

This was an informal sample on which the analyst has expressed some doubt as to the constituents. The firm was notified of the analyst's comments and also the matter was referred to the Ministry of Health who advised that no action should be taken.

Margarine.

This was an informal sample obtained from an ice cream vendor who complained that the margarine has spoilt his ice cream mix. The margarine was labelled unsalted but the analyst reported that it contained 2.4% of salt. The ice cream manufacturer was advised to take the matter up with his supplier who caused an investigation to be made at the place of manufacture.

Meringue Maker.

This was an informal sample and the analyst reported that he considered the label to be unsatisfactory. A letter has been sent to the makers asking for their comments and they replied that the mix, as advertised, was in common use throughout the country for the making of meringues.

Mustard Sauce.

This was an informal sample on which the analyst reported that the ingredients were not in the proportions stated on the label. The manufacturers were notified and a reply was received that it had been discovered that a recent delivery of labels had been incorrectly printed. An immediate reprint was ordered, a copy of which was forwarded to this office and found to be satisfactory.

Orange Squash.

An informal sample of orange squash was reported to be unsatisfactory in that it was labelled sugarless and recommended for diabetics whereas it contained about 3% of sugars, no doubt derived naturally from the orange juice. The manufacturers were notified and in their reply they stated that the product conformed with the requirements of the operative Soft Drinks Order. Under these circumstances no further action was taken.

Pink Pills.

This was an informal sample which the analyst reported was out of condition. The vendor was visited and the remainder of the stock surrendered and destroyed.

Rum and Butter Toffee.

This was an informal sample reported to be unsatisfactorily labelled. The manufacturers were notified and they informed us that the label was old stock and submitted the label at present in use which was found to be quite satisfactory.

Salicylic Acid Ointment.

This was an informal sample obtained from a local chemist and reported to be deficient of 8.84% Salicylic Acid. The chemist was revisited in order to obtain a formal sample but the inspector was informed that this particular consignment had been withdrawn from sale because it was out of condition and no formal sample could be obtained.

Sal Volatile

Four informal samples of sal volatile were reported to be deficient of ammonia. In three instances formal samples were obtained and were all similarly deficient of ammonia. In the remaining case when the shop premises were revisited the remainder of the stock had been sold and no formal sample could be obtained. As these samples were obtained during very hot weather and this was probably a contributory cause of the deficiency of ammonia, the vendors were notified and advised to take precautions to prevent any future deficiency.

Seven Rubbing Oils.

This was an informal sample obtained from a small shop and the analyst reported that the label was incorrect as one of the constituents was not mentioned on it. It was ascertained that the oils in question were delivered before October, 1954, and the manufacturers have since amended the label which now bears all the constituents. The missing ingredient was an inert oil which had no medicinal properties and this being so the manufacturers were under the impression at that time that it was not necessary to include it on the label.

Sweetened Cake Flour.

This was an informal sample obtained from a shop and reported to be infested with mites. The shopkeeper was interviewed and the remainder of the stock surrendered and destroyed.

Table Jelly.

This was an informal sample of table jelly the label of which was reported to be "misleading" in that the packet had a picture of fresh fruits printed on it whereas no fruits were contained in the ingredients. A letter was sent to the firm pointing out this fact and after some correspondence it was agreed that the printing of the words "True Fruit Flavour" on the front panel would be satisfactory.

White Precipitate Ointment.

Two informal samples were obtained and both were reported as unsatisfactory in that white precipitate is a Part 1 poison and the containers should be marked "Poison". Both vendors were notified and advised accordingly.

A further informal sample was reported to be unsatisfactory in that it contained S.1 drug and the retailer's name was not stated on the container. The attention of the chemist was drawn to this omission and in future name and address will be stated on the tins of ointment.

Witch Hazel Distilled, B.P.

This was an informal sample and the analyst reported that the label should read B.P.C. 49 instead of B.P. The chemist was informed of this and future labels corrected accordingly.

Xmas Pudding.

This was an informal sample and the analyst reported that the label was unsatisfactory in that the ingredients stated are not clearly legible. A letter was sent to the manufacturers and they replied that their attention had been called to this point by another authority and steps were being taken to ensure that all labels in future would be satisfactory.

Analysis of Sample Results.

Percentage of samples found to be adulterated	4.43
Percentage of samples found to have labelling contraventions	1.88
Percentage of samples found to be unfit by reason of rancidity, infestation, etc. ... ..	.27
Total percentage of samples found to be unsatisfactory	6.58

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND MARKETS, SHOPS AND STORES

During the year 3,115 inspections were made of markets, shops and stalls, etc., where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale. Of this number 1,595 visits were made for the purpose of examining food to ascertain its fitness or otherwise for human consumption. In the cases where food was found to be unfit it was surrendered by the owner and a surrender certificate was issued. The surrendered foods were destroyed locally at the refuse destructor, except where they had some value as animal feeding stocks.

The quantities of food surrendered as unfit during the year are set out below :—

UNSOOUND FOOD.

Total Weight of Foods Surrendered.

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat	2	7	2	10
Fish	7	17	2	25
Poultry		4	2	21
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables ...	7	17	0	6
Dried Fruit		2	3	9½
Other Foods	3	1	2	12¾
	21	11	2	0½

Canned Foods.

Meat	2,384 cans
Fruit and Vegetables ...	10,549 cans
Other Foods	3,313 cans

The meat referred to in this table is in addition to that condemned at the Abattoir.

FOOD HYGIENE

The Department again carried out the lecturing and examination duties in connexion with clean food handling courses organised in connexion with the St. John Ambulance Association. The course held during the evenings, in order to meet the needs of the food handlers, experienced a very disappointing response.

The number of final candidates for the certificate examined was only 15; as the majority of these were in charge of canteens it is possible that the ultimate result will be more satisfactory than the number attending the course suggests. Every one of those who did attend gave evidence of their keen interest in the subject and displayed a determination to apply the basic rules of hygienic handling of food on their premises.

Requests for lectures to be given by members of the staff to various organisations continue to increase. It is most encouraging to find this interest in food hygiene not only among the members of responsible bodies, but also among individual members of the public. Despite the difficulties which face a depleted inspectorial staff, since these lectures are given after office hours every request for a lecture or talk has been met. This sacrifice of leisure on the part of the inspectors is readily given in the firm belief that informed public opinion is one of the best aids to improved food hygiene. Moreover, it is an aspect of public relations often overlooked.

Local newspapers devoted considerable space to the subject of food hygiene and rendered the department invaluable service by keeping this matter before their readers. There is little doubt that the public reaction to newspaper prompting will have an effect on food traders themselves. With the return to competitive conditions the old principle of the customer being always right is becoming re-established, and the demand for clean food by the purchaser is a vital necessity in any drive against conditions conducive to food poisoning.

During the year, apart from the lectures and talks to a large number of organisations, more than 250 food handlers were given instruction on the cause of food poisoning and the means available to prevent it.

MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS

Magisterial proceedings were instituted in twenty-three instances involving the service of twenty-three summonses. In six cases involving the service of six summonses in respect to contraventions of Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, fines and costs amounting to £34 1s. od. were imposed upon the defendants.

In one case where a summons was served under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to pig's chitterlings sold in an unfit condition, the magistrates dismissed the summons. The decision was based upon a question of degree, the court not being satisfied that the condition of the chitterlings rendered them unfit for human consumption at the material date.

Two cases requiring the service of two summonses related to contraventions of Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Fines and costs totalling £7 0s. od. were imposed upon the defendants. In one instance proceedings were instituted in respect to a contravention of Section 32 of the Food and Drugs Act,

1938, where butter containing water in excess of the statutory percentage (16%) was sold. Fine and costs amounting to £17 2s. od. were imposed.

Ten summonses were served in respect to non-compliance with statutory abatement notices under Sections 92 and 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, concerning statutory nuisances found to exist in dwelling houses. The magistrates made an order in seven instances requiring the work to be done within a specified period. In the remaining three instances an adjournment of the case was decided upon subject to a satisfactory undertaking being given by the property owner that the requirements of the abatement notices would be complied with. A statutory nuisance found to exist on land situated in allotment gardens arising from the improper keeping of pigs and horses was also brought before the magistrates. An order was made against the defendant to abate the nuisance within a specified period.

A contravention of Section 56 of the Coventry Corporation Act, 1936, in that the slaughtering of swine by way of trade in premises not being a slaughterhouse resulted in the imposition by the magistrates of a fine of £1. For failing to notify the Local Authority of the slaughter of swine within three hours contrary to paragraph 8 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, the magistrates also imposed a fine and costs of £2 10s. od.

AIR POLLUTION PREVENTION

Coventry Corporation Acts, 1948 and 1954

The year 1955 saw steady progress in this specialised field of environmental hygiene with a gradual consolidation of basic opinions and standards. The Beaver Committee of the previous year investigated the air pollution problem to great lengths and made many recommendations. In spite of the promotion of a private member's Bill in Parliament, made with the specific purpose of expediting legislation, the publication of the Clean Air Bill proved to be a casualty of the General Election and did not materialise until the middle of the year under review.

The Bill has been praised and criticized, but generally speaking, could be said to represent some improvement on previous means of control. It is recommended that the procedure for dealing with smoke nuisances should be more streamlined and this comment will be appreciated by all public health officers. The present law on this subject was stated by Sir Hugh Beaver to be "wholly inadequate and failing of its purpose". The Committee was also of the opinion that the Bill was an attempt to correct a state of affairs which "exists because of the weakness of the law". The Bill has been criticized to the effect that whilst its objects are good the methods of attaining them are likely to be still most difficult owing to the legal drafting of retained qualifications, exemptions, and definitions which are reminiscent of the 1875 Health Act outlook. There may be justification for this opinion and judging by the large number of amendments for consideration

at the Committee stage of the Bill, further improvements may yet result.

Undoubtedly the abatement side of air pollution prevention control will be facilitated by the adoption of a nuisance-point-value giving a definite standard of smoke colour and density. The prevention side, so far completely discounted in legislation, has finally come into its own and 'prior approval' of installations and the establishment of 'smoke control areas' are provided for in the Bill. In this respect Coventry can claim a flying start in the administration of these new approach methods.

In their Acts of 1948 and 1954 the Coventry City Council were the first local authority in the country to operate powers of prior approval for proposed fuel burning installations and to establish smokeless zones. Coventry's initiative was followed by other similar type local authorities which based their plans, in many instances, on Coventry's experiences. The mass of detail accumulated by our inspectorate and the experience gained are eagerly sought and have been of the greatest assistance to other authorities.

Undoubtedly the Beaver Committee and the legislature have been impressed by the successes achieved in Coventry and other places. This is borne out by the fact that similar prevention methods have been recommended for enactment nationally. One major difference, however, is to be found in the smokeless zone of Coventry and the proposed 'smoke control area' of the future. The smokeless zone means exactly what the name implies, whereas the latter title allows of the controlled emission of limited quantities of smoke. This is obviously a less stringent form of control than that which has obtained in Coventry for the past five years. There is a saving grace, however, in that the smoke control areas of the Clean Air Bill may be easier to establish and consequently be capable of being spread over wider areas than the prohibitive smokeless zone.

The usefulness of smokeless zones has received considerable publicity. The absence of thick fogs in the zones of Manchester and London at a time when surrounding areas were heavily obscured was commented upon by newspapers and, even in the case of Coventry's thirty acre zone, the "phenomenon" was quickly appreciated by members of the public.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936—SECTION 101: SMOKE

It has been estimated that over two and a half million tons of soot and five million tons of sulphur dioxide are discharged each year into the atmosphere of Great Britain. Most of the sulphur dioxide is discharged from industrial plant, but probably half the soot is produced in domestic firegrates. It is obvious that much heavier pollution occurs in industrial areas than elsewhere, and that the intensity and nature of the aerial impurities in a city is determined by the particular type of industry concentrated therein.

Coventry does not have to suffer the type of smoke polluted atmosphere which exists in many northern and other industrial towns. In the main the larger factories of the City are of fairly recent construction with modern means of power and heat generation.

In instances where plant operation and maintenance are not all they should be or where obsolete plant still remains in the older establishments, smoke emissions result and investigations are commenced. During the year 47 complaints were received and 760 observations were made of chimneys. The majority of smoke nuisances were observed at factories still using unreliable hand firing methods and in these cases, more efficient methods of hand firing were recommended by the Department. Improvements were effected in other cases by advising and arranging the use of better fuel; repairs to flues, furnaces and equipment; replacement of plant; the installation of mechanical stoking methods, etc. 14 written notices were served and 32 verbal notices given.

DUST AND GRIT EMISSIONS

Investigations were made following complaints of dust and grit emission as several factories in the city during the year. The complaints related to emissions from fettling shops, foundries, pulverised fuel installations and cupolas.

Three atmospheric pollution deposit gauges are situated in appropriate positions in the city area. Continuous measurement of the extent of air borne deposit is carried on and monthly analyses are forwarded to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. One of the recommendations of the Beaver Committee in dealing with this problem was that techniques should be developed in order to measure the rate of dust and grit deposit and also to pin-point the offending installation. Local authorities have experienced considerable difficulty in this matter particularly where an offender has to be detected in a heavily populated industrial area.

During the year an experiment was made to estimate the usefulness of a technique employing thirty deposit gauge stations surrounding a factory on the north east of the city. Correlation of wind velocity and the amounts of the deposit during the timed test contoured graphically, and with the use of photography was instrumental in convincing the management of one factory of the error of their ways.

It is to be hoped that the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in conjunction with the British Standards Institution will be able to develop an efficient method of dealing with offenders in the matter of this chronic type of air pollution.

PRIOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FUEL BURNING INSTALLATIONS

This improved provision of the Coventry Corporation Acts continues to operate successfully. Before the passing of the local Act the only means of enforcing smoke abatement law was after the act of default had been committed. A new principle of legislation has been advanced locally and once again it has been endorsed by the Committee on air pollution and recommended for operation nationally.

Since its institution thirty-five applications relating to installations have been approved.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Factories.

The following tables are inserted in compliance with Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937.

TABLE I.—INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the 1937 Act are enforced by local authorities	62	18	..	..
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 of the 1937 Act is enforced by local authorities.. ..	1,063	323	18	..
3. Other premises in which Section 7 of the 1937 Act is enforced by local authorities (excluding outworkers' premises) .. ..	..	..	..	..
	1,125	341	18	..

TABLE II.—DEFECTS.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1) ..	..	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding (Sec. 2) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Unreasonable tempr. (Sec. 3) ..	..	..	..	..	..
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4) ..	..	..	..	..	..
Inefficient drainage of floors (Sec. 6) ..	..	..	..	..	..
Sanitary conveniences (Sec. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	..	..	1	..
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	16	15	..	15	..
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	..	..	..	..	..
Other offences against the Acts (Not including offences relating to outwork) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	18	15	..	16	..

Outworkers.

During the year seven lists were received in accordance with Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937, from firms employing outworkers residing in the city. Of these five lists were received in the August return and related to seventy-seven outworkers who were employed as follows :—

Making, altering or cleaning or wearing apparel ...	6
Making of cardboard boxes	43
Carding, etc.	28

No contravention of the Act relating to outworkers' premises was observed during the year.

Bakehouses.

All bakehouses in the city are, for administration purposes, supervised by the specialist section which deals with factories as they come within the purview of both the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948 and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Most of the bread sold in the city is baked at three large mechanised bakeries which also sell a considerable quantity of bread in the surrounding districts. The small bakehouse is slowly disappearing and this applies especially to that type of family concern where mainly bread is made. At the close of the year there were, on the bakehouse register, fifty bakehouses, two having closed down during the year and it is thought probable that a number of others will shortly be closed.

No new bakehouse was opened during the year and there was no change of occupier. Also no plans were submitted to the Council for approval of new premises.

One large bakehouse has been undergoing reconstruction for well over twelve months and this reconstruction is not yet completed.

The standard of cleanliness maintained in all bakehouses has been very satisfactory and in no instance was it found necessary to call the occupier's attention to any contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in relation to any premises.

The table below shows the number of bakehouses in the city and inspections, etc., carried out during the year :—

Number on register January, 1955	52
Number closed during the year	2
Number of changes of occupation	Nil
Number of new bakehouses opened during the year	Nil
Number on register, December, 1955	50
Number of inspections carried out during 1955 ...	87

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949, FOR THE YEAR 1955—9156

In accordance with the requirements of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the work of Rodent Control has been continued throughout the year, 1st April, 1955, to 31st March, 1956, by the Rodent Officer and the Rodent operatives supervised by him.

Complaints by occupiers have been investigated and treatment carried out where necessary. During the year survey inspections were made and infestations dealt with forthwith.

The work carried out by the rodent control staff as enumerated in the following table.

TABLE I. Investigations and cases dealt with by the Rodent Officer.

No. of complaints of rat infested premises investigated	...	...	505
No. of premises found to be infested (Dwelling houses)	...	...	364
(Business premises)	...	...	29
(Local Authority)	...	...	32
No. of revisits to rat infested premises	...	...	849
No. of cases where rats gained access to buildings from defective drains	...	...	29
No. of defective drains remedied	...	...	29
No. of drains examined	...	...	61
No. of premises cleared of infestation	...	...	136

TABLE II. No. of cases dealt with and work carried out by Departmental Rodent Operatives.

No. of complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	1256
No. of premises inspected by survey (Dwelling houses)	...	...	...	...	1196
(Business premises)	...	...	...	...	53
(Local Authority)	...	...	...	...	37
No. found to be infested (Dwelling houses)	...	...	...	...	851
(Business premises)	...	...	...	...	92
(Local Authority)	...	...	...	...	34
No. of visits and revisits to treat infestations (Dwelling houses)	...	...	...	...	3090
(Business premises)	...	...	...	...	423
(Local Authority)	...	...	...	...	380
No. of infestations treated	...	...	...	...	1266
No. of infestations cleared	...	...	...	...	1110
No. of Warfarin baits laid	...	...	...	...	10688
No. of instances where gas was used	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of carcasses found following treatment	...	...	...	...	185

Treatment of Sewers.

The work of systematically baiting the sewers throughout the City with poison, which was unavoidably postponed owing to heavy demands by redevelopment projects upon existing labour personnel, was recommenced during the year.

The efforts made by the City Engineer's Department to engage suitable men for this branch of rodent repression work ultimately proved successful.

It was possible to carry out a first maintenance treatment of the 15 centre sections of the City's main sewerage system.

No. of sewer manholes baited	1,047
No. of sewer manholes where poison baits were taken	398
No. of sewer manholes where no baits were taken ...	638

The remaining outlying sections of the sewerage system was undergoing treatment at the close of the year.

Tips: Wyken, Baginton, Howes Lane.

The above mentioned refuse tips have been inspected in the past year at monthly intervals, and any infestations found have been dealt with successfully. The routine inspections will be continued and a maintenance treatment carried out whenever necessary.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act, which came into force on 1st April, 1952, besides regulating the sale of pet animals from licensed premises promotes their welfare. Twenty-one pet shops were licensed in the city during the year. Of this number twenty were granted in the form of renewals in respect to existing pet shops while one licence related to the establishment of a pet shop which was new. Before any premises are reported upon to the Health Committee for the granting of a licence, the decision of the Chief Fire Officer as to the security of the premises against fire is obtained. I am pleased to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation which is always afforded in this respect.

Forty-three visits to pet shops were made during the year for the purpose of ensuring that the licence conditions were fully observed.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

This Act controls the manufacture and use of practically all filling materials used in the upholstery trade, in so far as their cleanliness is concerned. Regulations made under the Act lay down prescribed standards of cleanliness for each type of filling material and name certain analysts who are empowered to carry out the various tests in order to ascertain whether or not the filling materials comply with the standards of cleanliness.

There are in Coventry no manufacturers of any kind of filling materials to which the Act applies. Most of the upholsterers in the city obtain their materials from manufacturers and suppliers outside the city, and these are usually purchased under warranty as complying with the required standard of cleanliness. There are in the city two firms licensed under Section 7 of the Act for the purposes of storing rag flock. In addition twenty premises are registered in accordance with Section 2; these are the premises of upholsterers where repair and manufacture of furniture, etc., is carried on.

During the year under review ten samples of filling material were obtained and tested by a prescribed analyst. Of these ten samples, eight were obtained from various registered premises

within the city, and two from a factory, situated outside the city, where filling material is manufactured. Of the eight samples taken within the city, one failed to conform with the prescribed test for cleanliness in that the chlorine content was in excess of that laid down in the Regulations. This sample was found to have been manufactured in the factory outside the city referred to above. Visits were paid to the factory and samples obtained, when it was found that two grades of a filling material were manufactured here, one being washed and one unwashed. It was the unwashed material which failed to pass the test. The circumstances of this case were reported to the Health Committee and the occupier of the registered premises in question was cautioned.

Following this report the Health Committee decided to ask adjacent authorities to allow authorised officers of this authority to exercise their powers of sampling within the areas of these authorities on a reciprocal basis. Permission for this was not asked for until December and at the close of the year no replies had been received.

PUBLIC BATHS AND PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

During the summer months frequent visits are made to the public baths and private swimming pools particularly when the baths are used to capacity. There is one public owned bath, two privately owned open-air swimming pools and one children's paddling pool owned by the Corporation.

Conditions at public baths and one of the private swimming pools were found to be satisfactory at all visits. At the other privately owned swimming pool conditions, although generally good, were not as satisfactory as the other privately owned pool. In the case of the unsatisfactory one it is considered that the asphalt surround to this pool is the cause of suspended matter being introduced in the water, the surround not being maintained in a satisfactory condition. The attention of the owners was called to this matter and alterations were carried out in the close season.

Chemical and bacteriological tests were carried out at the three baths and results are set out below :—

	<i>No. of Samples.</i>			<i>Results.</i>	
	<i>Bact.</i>	<i>Chem.</i>		<i>Bact.</i>	<i>Chem.</i>
Livingstone Road Baths	3	3	Satisfactory		2 parts per mil. chlorine
Gosford Pool	5	5	Satisfactory		More than 0.6 pts. per mil. chlorine
Kenpas Pool	6	8	1 Unsatisfactory		2 parts per mil. chlorine at cascade. 0.2 pts. per mil. at outlet (average)

Binley Road Paddling Pool.

Conditions at this Pool gave rise to concern during the hot weather. The Pool has been used by thousands of children and from the tests taken the water was found to be highly polluted. Arrangements were made with the Director of Parks for a continuous flow of water to enter the pool in order to offset the pollution which occurs from continual usage. The procedure now is for the Pool to be filled twice a week and chlorinated when full, the continuous flow operating between the complete emptying and refilling. When sampled after the Pool had been filled in the manner described the results were satisfactory. On previous occasions seven samples were very unsatisfactory showing uncountable colonies, the presence of coliform, faecal coliform and on one occasion faecal streptococci.

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CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH, YEAR 1955.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Total Deaths 1955.			Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Deaths in C. & W. Hosp.	Deaths in G. Hosp.	Deaths in other Inst.
	Males	Females	Total									
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	34	8	42	..	..	1	14	18	9	..	6	11
2. Tuberculosis Other ..	2	2	4	..	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	1
3. Syphilitic Disease ..	8	2	10	..	..	..	1	3	6	1	1	..
4. Diphtheria .. ..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
5. Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Meningococcal Infection ..	..	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
8. Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	33	30	63	..	..	..	4	25	34	5	7	4
11. ditto Lung, Bronchus ..	93	9	102	..	..	..	4	53	45	6	12	11
12. ditto Breast	1	33	34	..	..	..	2	11	21	4	3	1
13. ditto Uterus .. ..	..	24	24	..	..	..	..	13	11	..	2	..
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	103	94	197	1	2	1	15	70	108	30	33	13
15. Leukæmia, Aleukæmia ..	3	6	9	..	1	..	3	3	2	5	1	2
16. Diabetes	7	9	16	..	..	..	1	8	7	2	5	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	139	174	313	..	..	..	4	67	242	18	48	12
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	250	115	365	..	..	..	8	113	244	20	41	10
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	23	21	44	..	..	..	..	8	36	1	7	5
20. Other Heart Disease ..	122	173	295	..	..	..	9	37	249	20	32	5
21. Other Circulatory Disease	36	37	73	..	..	..	1	19	53	5	13	7
22. Influenza	11	8	19	1	..	..	1	5	12	..	..	..
23. Pneumonia	47	37	84	20	..	..	4	15	45	8	26	14
24. Bronchitis	113	40	153	1	..	..	3	48	101	5	24	5
25. Other diseases of Respiratory System ..	25	8	33	1	1	1	2	13	15	1	5	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	18	6	24	..	..	..	..	11	13	7	9	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	5	5	10	3	..	..	..	3	4	1	5	..
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	15	13	28	..	1	..	5	14	8	1	7	4
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	18	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	18	6	3	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .. ..	..	5	5	..	..	..	5	..	..	1	3	1
31. Congenital Malformation	12	26	38	27	3	2	2	2	2	3	12	4
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ..	96	92	188	57	3	1	17	34	76	34	83	19
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	28	9	37	..	2	1	21	4	9	19	..	8
34. All Other Accidents ..	30	30	60	7	1	2	9	9	32	20	2	9
35. Suicide	20	9	29	..	..	..	13	12	4	3	..	..
36. Homicide and Operations of War .. ..	..	2	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..
TOTALS ..	1293	1031	2324	120	17	10	150	620	1407	228	294	155

VITAL STATISTICS OF CITY FROM 1932 to 1955 INCLUSIVE

Y EAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE CITY.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE CITY.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.	of Non- residents registered in the City.	of Resi- dents not registered in the City.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births		
1932	182,000	2,507	2,468	13.5	1,727	9.5	100	92	172	69.7	1,719	9.4
1933	184,500	2,526	2,480	13.4	1,844	9.9	103	95	160	64.5	1,837	9.9
1934	184,900	2,585	2,521	13.6	1,865	10.0	125	116	144	57.1	1,856	10.0
1935	190,000	2,843	2,750	14.4	1,862	9.7	120	112	128	46.5	1,844	9.7
1936	192,360	3,009	2,912	15.1	1,960	10.1	100	101	151	51.8	1,961	10.1
1937	206,500	3,306	3,254	15.7	2,154	10.4	126	128	158	48.5	2,156	10.4
1938	219,900	3,724	3,624	16.5	2,074	9.4	139	156	203	56.0	2,091	9.5
1939	234,000	4,155	4,155	17.7	2,179	9.3	100	129	227	54.6	2,208	9.4
1940	229,400	3,973	3,973	16.4	3,157	18.0	238	298	248	63.0	3,217	13.3
1941	193,070	3,301	3,301	17.1	2,097	10.1	142	670	156	54.8	2,483	12.8
1942	207,200	3,996	3,996	19.3	1,617	8.0	59	577	249	62.3	2,076	10.2
1943	214,870	4,889	4,889	21.2	1,683	7.3	57	593	244	49.9	2,219	9.6
1944	220,400	5,466	5,466	22.8	1,664	6.9	81	583	265	48.4	2,166	9.0
1945	221,970	4,949	4,949	22.2	1,847	8.3	68	569	338	68.2	2,348	10.5
1946	232,850	4,326	5,225	22.4	1,856	7.9	69	562	284	54.3	2,349	10.0
1947	242,860	4,787	5,643	23.2	2,051	8.4	126	503	255	45.1	2,428	9.9
1948	250,400	4,249	5,101	20.3	1,803	7.2	65	489	232	45.5	2,227	8.8
1949	254,900	3,931	4,743	18.6	1,862	7.3	71	552	187	39.4	2,414	9.4
1950	256,800	3,596	4,450	17.3	1,864	7.3	113	569	145	32.6	2,433	9.4
1951	258,100	3,576	4,326	16.7	2,176	8.4	99	608	154	35.6	2,685	10.4
1952	261,000	3,389	4,159	15.9	1,836	7.0	94	605	132	31.7	2,347	8.9
1953	263,000	3,524	4,250	16.1	1,952	7.4	88	373	142	33.4	2,237	8.5
1954	264,600	3,465	4,171	15.76	1,938	7.3	100	336	127	30.4	2,174	8.2
1955	267,300	3,576	4,300	16.09	2,133	8.0	123	314	120	27.9	2,324	8.7

**Table of Comparative Vital Statistics over a period of ten years
for Coventry, the large Towns, and England and Wales.**

	BIRTH RATE			DEATH RATE			INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE		
	Coventry	126 Large Towns	England and Wales	Coventry	126 Large Towns	England and Wales	Coventry	126 Large Towns	England and Wales
1946	22·4	22·2	19·1	10·0	12·7	11·5	51	46	43
1947	23·2	22·0	20·6	9·9	12·5	12·3	45	44	41
1948	20·3	20·0	17·9	8·8	11·6	10·8	45	39	34
1949	18·6	18·7	16·7	9·4	12·5	11·7	39	37	32
1950	17·3	17·6	15·8	9·4	12·3	11·6	33	34	30
1951	16·7	17·3	15·5	10·4	13·4	12·5	36	34	30
1952	15·9	16·9	15·3	8·9	12·1	11·3	32	31	28
1953	16·1	17·0	15·5	8·5	12·2	11·4	33	31	27
1954	15·76	15·98	15·2	8·2	11·23	11·3	30	27	25
1955	16·09	16·07	15·0	8·7	11·44	11·7	28	27	25

Table showing Population, Birth-rates, Death-Mortality Rates of the 20 large

	Birmingham	Bradford	Bristol	Cardiff	Coventry	Croydon	Kingston-upon-Hull	Leeds
R.G.'s ESTIMATED POPULATION	1,111,700	286,400	442,500	248,400	267,300	249,300	299,600	507,400
COMPARABILITY FACTOR :—								
(a) Births	0.94	1.00	0.99	0.94	0.95	0.99	0.96	0.98
(b) Deaths	1.14	0.97	0.96	1.07	1.27	0.90	1.15	1.08
CRUDE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	16.01	16.20	14.76	16.85	16.09	13.4	18.07	15.0
BIRTH RATE AS ADJUSTED BY FACTOR	15.05	16.20	14.61	15.84	15.2	13.3	17.3	14.7
CRUDE DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	11.27	14.01	11.77	11.39	8.7	11.4	10.8	11.5
DEATH RATE AS ADJUSTED BY FACTOR	12.85	13.59	11.30	12.19	11.0	10.3	12.4	12.4
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS ..	23.71	28.58	19.14	33.21	27.9	21	26.4	25.4
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS ..	16.24	17.81	12.71	19.34	17.9	13.47	15.7	17.8
STILLBIRTH RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS	23.00	20.04	20.25	30.12	25.1	20.26	25.04	22.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS ..	0.33	0.43	0.30	0.46	1.16	0.59	1.08	0.51
TUBERCULOSIS RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION :—								
(a) Primary Notifications								
Respiratory	1.03	0.89	0.786	1.19	1.64	0.93	1.02	0.96*
Non-respiratory	0.11	0.09	0.104	0.18	0.13	0.11	0.09	0.17*
(b) Deaths—								
Respiratory	0.19	0.10	0.118	0.19	0.16	0.140*	0.19	0.13
Non-respiratory	0.01	0.01	0.016	0.012	0.015	0.012*	0.013	0.01
*DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION FROM :—								
Cancer (all forms, including Leukaemia and Aleukaemia)	2.06	2.37	1.993	2.07	1.6	2.190	2.04	2.11
Cancer of Lungs & Bronchus	0.44	0.46	0.371	0.399	0.38	0.477	0.45	0.54
Meningococcal Infections ..	0.00	0.01	—	0.016	0.007	0.01	0.006	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.00	—	0.002	0.004	—	0.00	0.006	—
Influenza	0.08	0.06	0.063	0.036	0.07	0.08	0.036	0.04
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.005	0.004	—	0.00	0.003	0.01
Acute Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	0.00	0.01	0.002	0.008	0.004	0.02	0.003	0.00
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..	0.01	0.01	0.007	0.020	0.1	0.01	0.01	0.02
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) per 1,000 live births ..	0.85	0.66	0.46	1.19	0.7	0.28	0.55	1.18

Where no deaths have occurred at all, a "dash" is inserted.

Where the number of deaths is too small to express as a rate, the figures 0.00 are inserted.

* Less "Transfers." Respiratory 0.79. Non-respiratory 0.16. (Primary notification).

† Departmental Figures. Respiratory 0.132. Non-respiratory 0.008 (Deaths).

rates, Zymotic Death-rates, Infant and Maternal
Towns of England and Wales for 1955.

Leicester	Liverpool	Manchester	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Nottingham	Plymouth	Portsmouth	Salford	Sheffield	Southampton	Stoke-on-Trent	Sunderland
286,300	779,900	692,200	281,000	312,000	218,000	238,700	169,300	501,100	194,900	274,000	182,000
0.99 1.02	0.92 1.20	0.95 1.13	0.95 1.10	0.95 1.09	1.02 1.02	1.02 0.98	0.95 1.16	0.99 1.06	0.98 1.03	0.94 1.24	0.94 1.16
14.80	19.6	16.91	16.74	15.67	16.22	14.16	15.95	13.48	16.91	15.26	19.33
14.65	18.0	16.06	15.91	14.89	16.54	14.44	15.1525	13.35	16.57	14.34	18.17
11.95	11.9	12.68	12.37	11.28	10.93	10.77	12.30	11.84	10.01	11.4	10.62
12.19	14.3	14.33	13.61	12.30	11.15	10.55	14.268	12.55	10.31	14.13	12.32
23.37	30	28.37	33.58	28.00	20.65	23.96	30.00	23.68	19.42	31.0	38.08
16.76	20.3	18.37	23.17	16.76	14.71	18.64	21.85	16.73	13.05	21.77	24.44
20.80	26.0	26.45	23.05	24.91	20.22	26.50	35.03	25.39	23.12	29.26	25.74
0.23	0.57	0.75	1.45	0.60	0.83	0.29	0.71	—	—	0.697	0.83
0.733 0.091	1.39 0.15	0.96 0.11	1.33 0.24	1.14 0.10	1.06 0.09	0.69 0.07	0.809 0.112	0.91 0.10	1.498 0.108	1.23 0.099	1.18 0.13
0.199 0.007	0.24 0.02	0.19 0.02	0.17 0.014	0.17 0.01	0.19 0.00	0.08 0.01	0.224 0.024	0.216 0.022	0.164 0.026	0.263 0.025	0.16 0.02
1.890 0.311 — 0.0035 0.087 —	2.05 0.52 0.00 0.00 0.06 0.00	2.28 0.56 0.004 0.003 0.049 0.003	2.27 0.54 0.007 — 0.053 —	2.02 0.43 0.006 0.006 0.048 0.016	1.90 0.31 0.00 0.00 0.10 —	1.97 0.36 0.00 — 0.03 —	2.103 0.543 0.006 — 0.065 —	2.16 0.48 0.00 0.00 0.03 0.01	1.934 0.421 — 0.005 0.03 0.005	1.87 0.328 0.015 0.004 0.065 0.011	1.92 0.38 0.005 0.005 0.03 0.005
— 0.007	0.00 0.02	0.001 0.01	0.007 0.011	0.003 0.016	— 0.00	0.00 0.02	— 0.012	0.01 0.01	— 0.01	0.00 0.003	0.005 0.06
0.472	1.24	0.60	0.637	1.02	0.57	1.18	0.741	0.74	0.61	0.24	3.12

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1955.

Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.													Total Deaths under One Year.		
All Causes { Certified Uncertified	Under 1 Day.	1-2 Days.	2-3 Days.	3-4 Days.	4-5 Days.	5-6 Days.	Total under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.
	34	12	4	6	..	1	57	6	6	4	73	18	18	10	1
Measles
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria
Influenza...	1	..	..
Tuberculosis of Nervous System...
Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum...
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Syphilis	1	..	..
Meningitis
Convulsions	1	..	..
Bronchitis
Pneumonia	1	1	9	10	..	..
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	..	..	..
Inflammation of Stomach	1	1	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Hernia: Intestinal Obstruction	2	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations	6	2	..	2	..	..	10	1	2	..	13	5	3	6	..
Congenital Debility and Sclerema
Icterus
Premature Birth	19	5	2	1	..	1	28	3	1	..	32	1	..	..	..
Injury at Birth	2	2	..	2	..	..	6	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..
Diseases of Umbilicus
Atelectasis	..	2	2	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..
Suffocation in Bed and not stated	1	..	1	..	..	6	..	3	3	12	2	1	3	1
Other Causes	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	19
TOTAL, ALL CAUSES ...	34	12	4	6	..	1	57	6	6	4	73	18	18	10	1

VITAL STATISTICS. (Historical Summary).

Year.	Houses Inhabited (December)	Vacant.	Popula- tion (Mid-year)	Mortality	Infectious Mortality	Deaths under one year per 1000 born.	Birth Rate
1586	..	..	6,502	..	..	..	..
1643	..	..	9,500	..	..	..	..
1694	..	..	6,711	..	..	..	..
1723	1,934	..	..	..	..	..	..
1748	2,066	..	12,817	..	..	..	..
1801	2,930	..	16,034	..	..	..	..
1811	3,448	*60	17,923	..	..	..	..
1821	3,729	*114	21,448	..	..	..	..
1831	5,444	*421	27,298	..	..	..	..
1841	6,531	*590	31,032	..	..	..	..
Ten Years' Average.							
1851	7,783	*151	36,812	27	..	..	..
1861	8,991	*1,026	40,936	25	..	..	..
1871	8,535	*816	37,670	22	..	..	..
1881	9,239	*643	42,111	20	3'3	150	35'4
1891	11,465	*284	52,724	18'5	1'7	142	32'0
1901	15,571	353	69,978	16'96	1'9	153'7	29'8
1911	23,515	95	106,349	13'7	1'4	109'3	28'0
1921	28,355	502†	128,157	11'3	0'7	83'6	23'2
1931	41,275	917†	167,083	10'1	0'2	67'7	15'7
1951	—	—	258,211	10'7	0'17	52'4	18'0
1897	†12,440	73	61,234	16'8	1'8	157	31'3
1911	23,515	95	107,287	13'3	2'08	109'8	26'9
1912	24,590	50	111,166	11'9	1'35	76'1	26'4
1913	25,051	113	115,064	11'4	0'84	91'6	26'0
1914	25,860	99	119,003	11'7	0'70	84'6	26'9
1915	26,667	56	122,982	12'9	1'39	87'8	23'8
1916	27,366	12	127,089	10'9	1'23	87'5	23'5
1917	27,531	15	130,000	10'4	0'47	78'5	20'2
1918	27,735	25	133,000	14'6	0'42	92'5	20'7
1919	27,829	20	136,000	9'3	0'32	82'8	18'2
1920	27,973	48	130,000	9'8	0'35	76'0	25'0
1921	28,355	502†	128,157	10'2	0'25	79'3	22'1
1922	28,661	72	129,000	10'6	0'34	70'4	18'9
1923	29,414	40	130,500	9'3	0'20	64'9	16'9
1924	29,685	90	132,000	9'6	0'19	79'4	16'0
1925	30,199	83	133,500	10'6	0'30	77'1	16'3
1926	31,034	111	135,000	9'7	0'15	68'9	15'7
1927	32,260	151	139,000	10'2	0'23	63'4	14'8
1928	38,474	175	161,600°	9'6	0'34	65'7	14'4
1929	39,374	750	163,700	12'1	0'63	73'1	14'8
1930	40,519	800	165,800	10'1	0'32	57'0	14'5
1931	41,275	917	168,900	10'0	0'10	57'7	14'8
1932	45,781	1000	182,000°	9'4	0'33	69'7	13'5
1933	47,175	1000	184,500	9'9	0'21	64'5	13'4
1934	48,730	1500	184,900	10'0	0'17	57'1	13'6
1935	50,622	1854	190,000	9'7	0'16	46'5	14'4
1936	54,273	1361	192,360	10'1	0'20	51'8	15'1
1937	57,888	1606	206,500	10'4	0'18	48'5	15'7
1938	61,580	1316	229,900	9'5	0'13	56'0	16'5
1939	—	—	—	9'4	—	54'6	17'7
1940	—	—	229,400	13'3	0'11	63'0	16'4
1941	—	—	193,070	12'8	0'21	54'8	17'1
1942	—	—	207,200	10'2	0'07	62'3	19'3
1943	—	—	214,870	9'6	0'23	49'9	21'2
1944	65,926	—	220,400	9'0	0'24	48'4	24'8
1945	—	—	221,970	10'5	0'30	68'2	22'2
1946	—	—	232,850	10'0	0'32	54'3	22'4
1947	68,900	—	242,860	9'9	0'18	45'1	23'2
1948	69,950	—	250,400	8'8	0'10	45'5	20'3
1949	70,550	—	254,900	9'4	0'11	39'4	18'6
1950	71,720	—	256,800	9'4	0'06	32'6	17'3
1951	72,497	—	258,100	10'4	0'03	35'6	16'7
1952	73,828	265	261,000	8'9	0'05	31'7	15'9
1953	76,150	157	263,000	8'5	0'04	33'4	16'1
1954	76,458	95	264,600	8'2	0'015	30'4	15'76
1955	79,369	400	267,300	8'7	0'026	27'9	16'09

* This number includes all business offices, whether in dwelling houses or factories, not occupied on the night the Census was taken.

† This number omits all business offices, factories, etc.

‡ The Census returns show unoccupied "dwellings"—not houses.

In these years an extension of the City Boundaries took place.

Comparative Statistics of the 16 Wards in the City for 1955.

WARDS	R.G. Estimated Population, 1955	Acreage	Density per Acre	Number of Deaths Registered	Death Rate, 1955	Number of Births Registered in City	Birth Rate, 1955	Number of Deaths under 1 year of age	Infantile Death Rate
Bablake ..	15964	1463	10.9	102	6.4	144	9.0	5	34.7
Charter and Binley	16040	2173	7.3	150	9.4	489	30.4	16	32.7
Cheylesmore	16276	1056	15.4	103	6.3	209	12.8	12	57.5
Earlsdon ..	14873	1908	7.8	175	11.8	125	8.4	1	8.0
Foleshill ..	15734	645	24.4	176	11.2	199	12.6	5	25.1
Godiva ...	16873	559	30.2	165	9.3	228	13.5	12	52.6
Holbrook's ...	13232	821	16.0	110	8.3	193	14.6	8	41.5
Longford ..	17505	2266	7.7	152	8.7	334	19.1	11	32.9
Lower Stoke ..	19260	849	22.7	194	10.1	207	10.7	5	24.2
Radford ..	19774	673	29.4	166	8.4	200	10.1	4	20.0
St. Michael's	17646	380	46.4	197	11.2	231	10.3	7	30.3
Sherbourne ..	16726	596	28.0	132	7.9	124	7.4	..	..
Upper Stoke..	20848	826	25.2	155	7.4	220	10.6	6	27.3
Walsgrave ..	16522	1550	10.7	103	6.2	218	14.0	5	23.0
Westwood ..	18323	2118	8.7	152	8.3	326	17.8	18	55.2
Whoberley ..	11704	1284	9.0	92	7.9	129	11.0	5	38.8

VENEREAL DISEASES

Return relating to Coventry Cases Treated at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, 1955

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	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea.		Other Conditions.		TOTALS 1955.		TOTALS.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	1954.	1953.	1952.	1951.
1. No. of patients on 1st January under treatment or observation	131	166	63	13	103	37	297	216	513	559	490	529	572
2. No. of patients removed from the register during any previous year who returned during the year under report for treatment or observation of the same infection	2	9	1	...	...	...	3	9	12	11	20	8	16
3. No. of patients dealt with for the first time during the year under report (exclusive of those under item 4) suffering from:—													
A. Syphilis, Primary	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	6	...	6
B. " Secondary ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5
C. " Latent in first year of infection	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	6	4	6	5
D. " Cardio-vascular	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	6	4	4	5
E. " of the nervous system	2	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	11	19	5	8
F. " all other late or latent stages	7	6	...	...	...	...	7	6	13	22	31	22	29
G. " Congenital (under one year)	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	1
H. " " (over one year)	2	8	...	...	...	...	2	8	10	6	9	7	12
I. Gonorrhoea ... ..	...	...	106	13	...	...	106	13	119	135	115	155	159
J. Chancroid ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	1	3	1	4	1	...	...	...
K. Lymphogranuloma Inguinale ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
L. Granuloma Venereum... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
M. Any other conditions requiring treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	206	68	206	68	274	225	203	206	171
N. Conditions not requiring treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	166	111	166	111	277	286	366	347	430
O. Conditions remaining undiagnosed at 31.12.55 " Other Conditions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	3	1
4. No. of patients dealt with for the first time who have been transferred from other centres (civil or service) or from practitioners approved under Ministry of Health Circular 2226	2	...	4	...	...	...	6	...	6	11	24	34	56
TOTALS OF ITEMS 1. 2. 3 & 4	150	193	174	26	478	218	802	437	1239	1280	1292	1326	1476

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Return relating to Coventry Cases Treated at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, 1955

	Syphilis.				Gonorrhœa.				Other Conditions.				TOTALS. 1955.				TOTALS.							
	M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		1954.		1953.		1952.		1951.	
5. No. of patients suffering from syphilis and gonorrhœa discharged after completion of treatment and final tests of cure, or who were diagnosed as "other conditions"	12		8		66	8		154	287		365	170		535			649		597		658		771	
6(a) No. of patients who ceased to attend before completion of treatment and were suffering from:—																								
A. Acquired syphilis of less than 1 year's duration	...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1		2		...		2	
B. Acquired syphilis of more than 1 year's duration	...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14		3		15		26	
C. Congenital syphilis under 1 year ...	...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..		...		...		1	
D. " " over 1 year ...	...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2		5		6		5	
E. Gonorrhœa ... ..	...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5		3		9		10	
6(b) Number of patients under treatment or observation known to have died:—																								
A. From syphilis ... ..	...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...		...		...
B. From treatment ... ..	...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...		...		...
C. From other causes ... ..	...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6		3		2		...	
7. No. of patients suffering from:—																								
A. Syphilis who defaulted after completion of treatment but before final discharge ...	15	15			...	...	...	...	...	...	15	15	30				22		14		20		33	
B. Gonorrhœa who defaulted ... ..	...		...		42	8	...	...	...	42	8	50				...	28		36		41		38	
C. Other patients, " " ... ..	...		...		...	...	18	...	60	...	60	18	78			7		5		7		13		
8. No. of patients transferred to other centres or institutions or to private practitioners ...	10	7			15	4		4	25		50	15	65				33		65		78		45	
9. No. of patients remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December, 1955 ...	113	163			51	6		42	106		270	211	481				513		559		490		529	
TOTALS OF ITEMS 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 ...	150	193			174	26		218	478		802	437	1239				1280		1292		1326		1476	
11. No of attendances:—																								
A. For individual attention by the medical officer(s)	2732	2416			808	86		569	1890		5431	3071	8502				9421		9630		9327		9168	
B. For intermediate treatment, e.g., dressings, etc.	484	413			993	541		2960	1549		3026	3914	6940				5923		5725		5466		4848	
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	3217	2829			1801	627		3529	3439		8457	6985	15442				15344		15955		14793		14016	

Live Register of Tuberculosis Patients.

	Pulmonary Cases.			Non-Pulmonary Cases.			Total Cases (All Forms).		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1. No. on Register at 31/12/1954...	1457	1051	2508	177	215	392	1634	1266	2900
2. Cases notified (or otherwise coming to knowledge in 1955	289	156	445	20	16	36	309	172	481
3. Cases removed from Register in 1955	159	78	237	12	8	20	171	86	257
4. No. on Register at 31/12/1955...	1587	1129	2716	185	223	408	1772	1352	3124

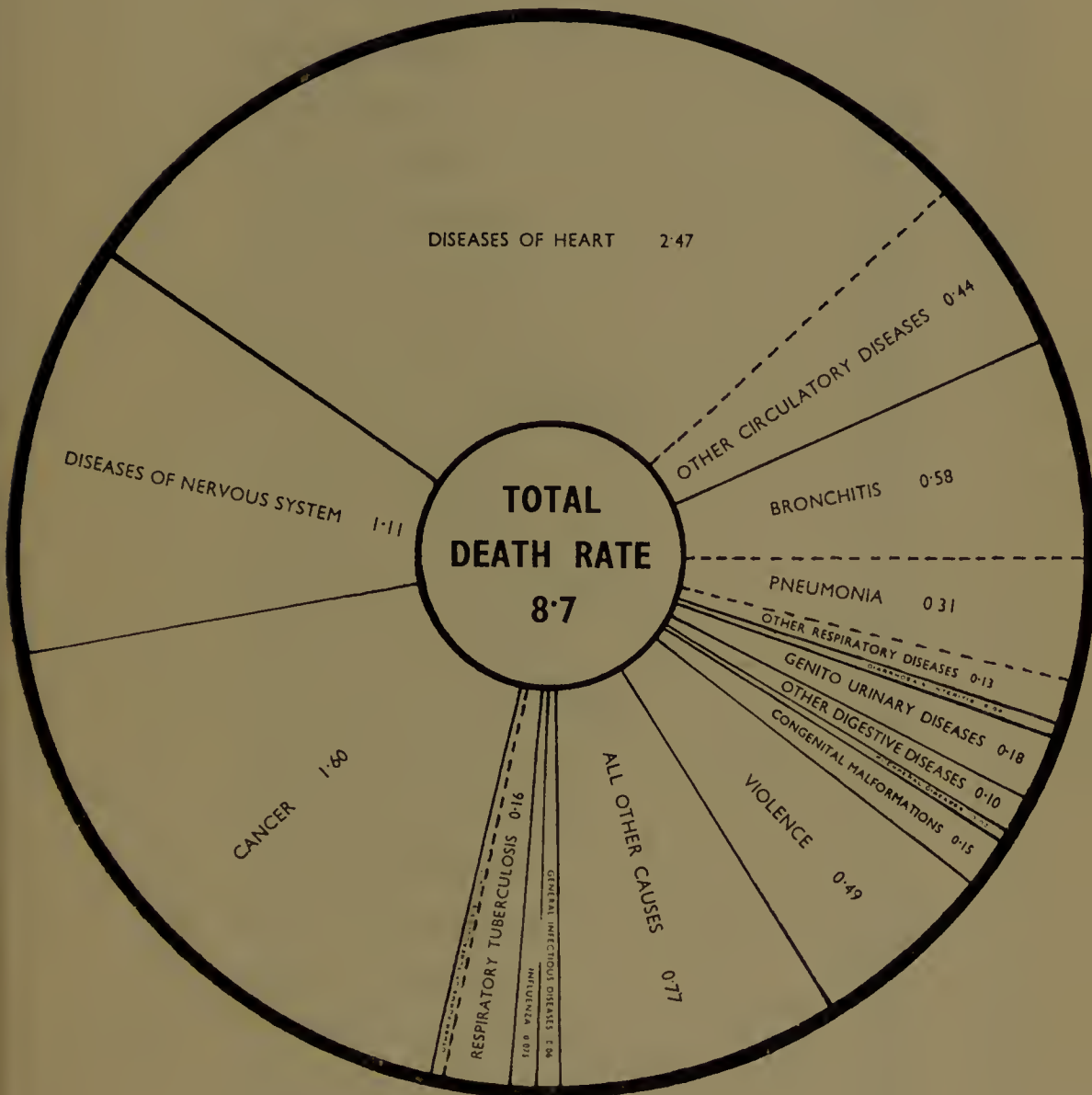
Tuberculosis.

YEAR	CASES ON REGISTER		CASES NOTIFIED (or brought to notice)		DEATHS			
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1946	M.	857	119	162	13	0.58	10	0.09
	F.	564	136	132	29		12	
1947	M.	938	115	223	22	0.67	9	0.08
	F.	572	156	143	34		11	
1948	M.	998	121	209	38	0.50	15	0.10
	F.	639	165	161	31		11	
1949	M.	1057	130	238	25	0.50	18	0.10
	F.	698	177	162	35		18	
1950	M.	1086	136	184	21	0.47	7	0.06
	F.	771	188	156	27		8	
1951	M.	1063	145	247	26	0.29	10	0.04
	F.	780	200	132	20			
1952	M.	1241	159	290	23	0.20	4	0.06
	F.	884	211	180	25		11	
1953	M.	1349	167	285	17	0.15	3	0.02
	F.	961	213	173	21		2	
1954	M.	1457	177	270	27	0.15	2	0.015
	F.	1051	215	163	15		2	
1955	M.	1587	185	289	20	0.16	2	0.015
	F.	1129	223	156	16		2	

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1955

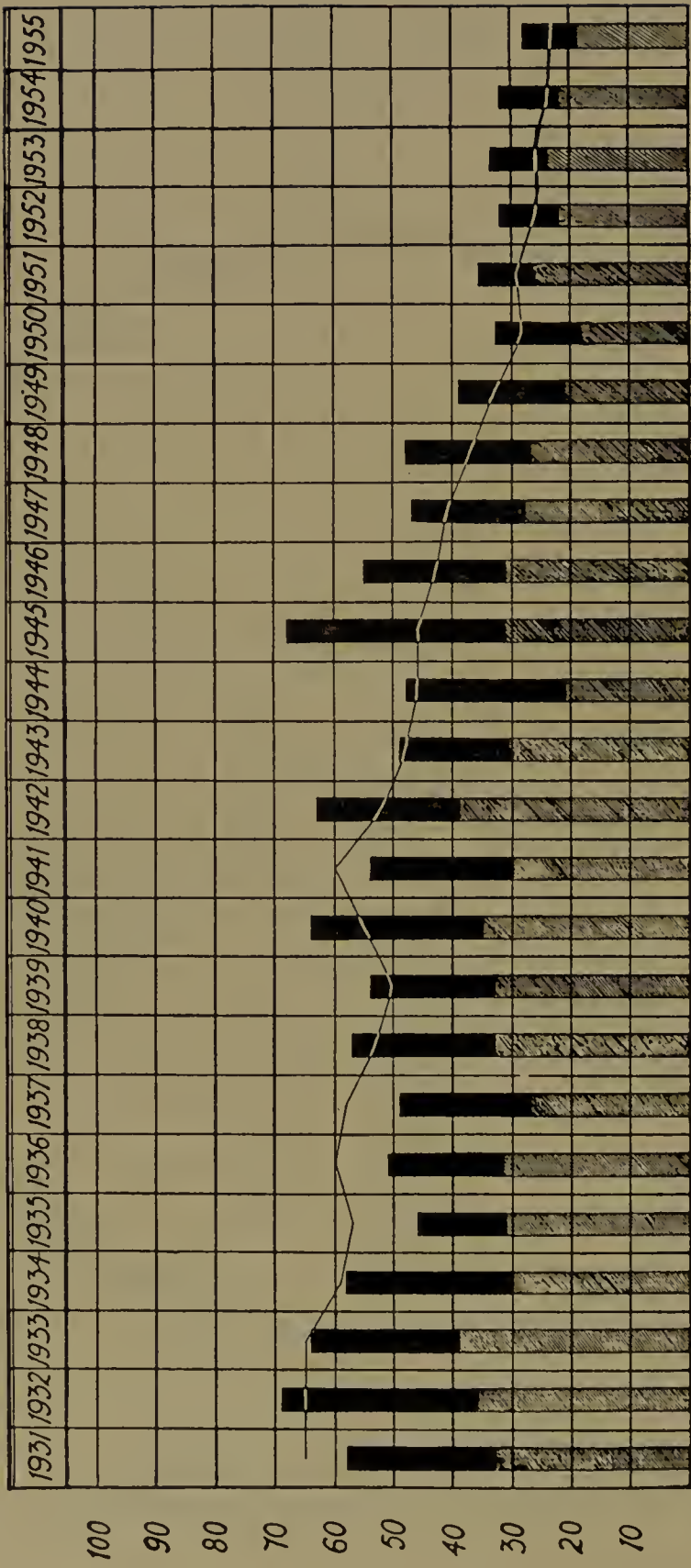
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NOTIFICATIONS IN AGE GROUPS.							NOTIFICATIONS IN THE VARIOUS WARDS OF THE CITY															
	Total number of cases notified.	Under 1.						Bablake	Charter's & Bin.	Cheylesmore	Earlsdon	Foleshill	Godiva	Holbrook	Longford	Lower Stoke	Radford	St. Michael's	Sherbourne	Upper Stoke	Walsgrave	Westwood	Whoberley
		1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 45.	45 & under 65.	65 & upwards.																
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera (C) Plague (P) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	6	2	2	1	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	8	1	3	1	1	..	..
Erysipelas	36	89	..	11	16	6	..	3	..	2	1	4	5	..	5	..	8	1	3	1	3	1	..
Scarlet fever	295	2	194	7	3	..	..	11	..	7	7	39	5	17	10	9	8	20	2	33	13	14	6
Typhus fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Para-typhoid fever	6	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	10	1	3	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	..	2	2	..	1	..
Acute Anterior Policmyelitis (Non paralytic)	17	2	7	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	3	3	1	7	..	..	2	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	..	..	6	6	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	4	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	6	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Respiratory Tuberculosis	439	2	36	98	198	84	9	23	38	25	14	23	39	20	38	29	19	42	16	24	22	60	13
Other forms of Tuberculosis	36	4	2	10	11	7	2	2	2	4	1	2	5	1	2	1	6	4	2	..	..	3	..
Malaria	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	147	5	35	67	7	26	3	4	19	3	21	2	6	8	8	23	8	21	14	1	5	..	3
Acute Primary Pneumonia	102	4	10	14	5	18	32	19	8	6	10	6	4	6	8	5	4	6	4	12	6	2	11
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	33	2	3	2	5	7	14	..	9	2	4	..	1	..	3	4	..	4	1	1	3	1	..
Acute Encephalitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-Encephalitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	3947	96	2009	1805	20	17	..	..	154	178	238	213	304	214	324	472	147	285	99	198	180	199	395
Whooping Cough	755	89	413	245	6	2	..	..	64	33	64	46	18	22	49	118	43	37	25	24	63	48	66
Food Poisoning	156	3	28	35	11	56	19	4	28	2	10	13	13	5	17	14	3	25	9	3	7	3	1
Total	6005	206	2610	2416	180	366	169	58	305	287	384	309	413	313	445	780	252	421	232	264	326	294	563

PROPORTIONS OF DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES
TO TOTAL DEATHS
1955



The Total Number of Deaths was 2,324
The Total Death Rate from all Causes was 8.7

CHART SHOWING THE INFANT MORTALITY PER 1,000 BIRTHS IN COVENTRY.



The Infant Death Rate per 1,000 births is represented by the chimneys, the shaded portion of which represents the death rate amongst babies under four weeks of age (*i.e.*, the neo-natal death rate).

The Infant Death Rate for England and Wales is represented by the line

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS MADE AT THE MEMORIAL PARK, COVENTRY, 1955

Lat. 52° 23' 26". Long. 1° 31' 4" W. Height of rim of rain gauge above Mean Sea Level, 338-ft.

The cistern of the barometer is situated 301.5 feet above sea level.

1955	Baro- meter Ins.	Air Temperature							Hygrometer				Earth Temp.		Bright Sunshine		Cloud	Rain and other Forms of Precipitation						Weather, No. of Days of							Wind Force (0—8)		Wind Directions. No. of daily observa- tions each month											
		Absolute Minimum and Maximum				Mean of Observa- tions at 9 a.m.			Mean of A and B		Difference from Average		Mean of		Mean of Observa- tions at 9 a.m.			At 1 foot depth	At 4 feet depth	Percentage of Average	Daily Mean	Mean of Observations at 9 a.m. (Scale 0.8)	Number of Days	Total Fall	Percentage of Average	Most in a Day		Snow	Hail	Thunderstorm	Clear Sky	Overcast	Fog	Gale	+ Number of Obser- vations of Moderate and Strong Winds	Calm or Light Wind	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
		Maximum A	Minimum B	Maximum	Minimum	Day of Month	Maximum	Day of Month	Dry Bulb	Depression of Wet Bulb	Vapour Pressure	Humidity	Day of Month	Amount	Day of Month																													
JAN.	29-837	40.9	*	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	91	38.6	42.7	76	0.9	7	15	2.17	105	.33	4	6	×	×	×	22	×	2	29	2	9	1	5	5	6	2	1							
FEB.	29-718	38.9	27.9	20	53	7	32.9	0.9	5.8	91	37.6	42.2	135	2.45	4	17	2.09	119	.39	4	7	×	×	5	10	14	×	×	27	2	8	1	2	1	2	7	5							
MAR.	*	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	37.2	40.2	×	×	4	10	2.71	146	1.03	26	5	×	×	3	11	11	×	×	31	6	8	4	3	3	1	1	5						
APR.	*	×	42.0	33	1/25	×	×	×	×	×	×	46.3	43.6	103	4.67	6	10	1.03	61	.36	29	×	×	×	1	18	9	2	×	30	×	9	×	×	3	9	3	6						
MAY	29-929	×	42.3	15	11/17/19	×	49.0	2.8	9.4	79	50.0	47.7	101	5.46	6	19	4.87	243	1.07	6	1	2	4	2	16	5	×	4	27	1	7	3	×	1	9	6	4							
JUNE	29-999	63.6	49.9	39	70	16	56.5	3.1	12.3	80	54.6	51.6	65	3.90	6	12	3.15	147	1.04	7	×	×	1	×	14	×	×	1	28	×	6	7	×	1	7	6	3							
JULY	30-149	73.8	54.1	43	83	14/17	62.5	3.9	15.0	77	63.3	56.5	141	7.57	4	4	.77	33	.61	17	×	×	2	1	9	×	×	1	30	5	19	×	×	2	2	3								
AUG.	30-145	73.6	56.1	46	81	22/23	62.4	2.1	17.0	87	63.7	58.8	98	5.12	6	9	.60	22	.15	9	×	×	1	×	18	×	×	1	28	3	12	1	1	5	1	1	7							
SEPT.	30-034	65.6	49.1	42	19/27/29	74	57.1	3.0	13.2	83	58.8	58.2	116	4.82	6	10	1.47	81	.47	4	×	×	1	×	15	1	×	7	23	×	3	×	2	5	10	4	6							
OCT.	29-995	56.7	41.4	25	68	10	48.4	2.2	10.0	83	52.0	54.6	118	3.47	5	8	1.37	49	.47	4	×	×	×	2	13	3	×	8	23	2	1	1	1	3	11	2	10							
NOV.	30-112	49.9	38.8	25	61	4	43.6	1.5	8.7	87	46.2	50.0	87	1.35	7	9	1.96	85	.55	3	×	×	×	×	23	8	×	2	28	2	6	2	10	1	3	2	4							
DEC.	29-774	48.0	36.2	21	58	28	41.6	1.2	8.1	89	42.9	46.8	169	1.54	5	15	2.07	80	.30	20	2	×	×	×	17	6	×	9	22	1	3	×	8	×	13	1	5							
Year	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	49.3	49.5	107	3.81	6	138	24.26	98	1.08	Mar. 26	21	2	9	14	186	57	2	35	326	24	91	20	32	28	74	37	59							

Meteorological Station moved from City Hospital, Whitley, to the Memorial Park, 1.4.51.
 Atmospheric Pollution Recorders moved from Whitley Pumping Station to Whitley Waterworks ½ mile S.E.
 Atmospheric Pollution Recorders moved from Edgwick Park to Poleshill Road Day Nursery, 50 yards N.W.

* Accessible instruments at this station were smashed by persons unknown.

RAINFALL**Total Rainfall Recorded in Inches from 1895—1955.**

Year	Rainfall in inches	Year	Rainfall in inches	Year	Rainfall in inches
1895	24.00	1916	28.47	1937	27.83
1896	25.21	1917	25.37	1938	22.13
1897	26.79	1918	25.24	1939	32.81
1898	19.87	1919	30.04	1940	21.27
1899	22.71	1920	27.61	1941	26.72
1900	28.88	1921	17.44	1942	21.18
1901	21.42	1922	29.73	1943	20.28
1902	22.54	1923	27.49	1944	26.34
1903	32.75	1924	31.96	1945	20.60
1904	19.98	1925	26.43	1946	29.16
1905	21.35	1926	27.66	1947	20.59
1906	26.45	1927	33.09	1948	29.16
1907	27.60	1928	26.92	1949	22.81
1908	23.14	1929	25.46	1950	24.79
1909	26.65	1930	30.99	1951	32.49
1910	29.57	1931	26.91	1952	25.86
1911	21.37	1932	29.38	1953	20.89
1912	37.02	1933	21.68	1954	30.50
1913	26.35	1934	20.96	1955	24.26
1914	25.16	1935	30.20		
1915	29.19	1936	27.98		

SUNSHINE**Total Sunshine Hours Recorded from 1895—1955.**

Year	Hours	Year	Hours	Year	Hours
1895	1495	1916	1220	1937	1147
1896	1111	1917	1326	1938	1282
1897	1367	1918	1310	1939	1310
1898	1326	1919	1320	1940	1467
1899	1482	1920	1110	1941	1160
1900	1166	1921	1530	1942	1249
1901	1214	1922	1293	1943	1348
1902	967	1923	1246	1944	1240
1903	1096	1924	1249	1945	1255
1904	1209	1925	1266	1946	1269
1905	1052	1926	1126	1947	1293
1906	1536	1927	1107	1948	1322
1907	1354	1928	1349	1949	1587
1908	1406	1929	1489	1950	1410
1909	1478	1930	1252	1951	1365
1910	1312	1931	1159	1952	1503
1911	1555	1932	1087	1953	1361
1912	1125	1933	1456	1954	1144
1913	1169	1934	1362	1955	1356
1914	1452	1935	1374		
1915	1463	1936	1120		

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